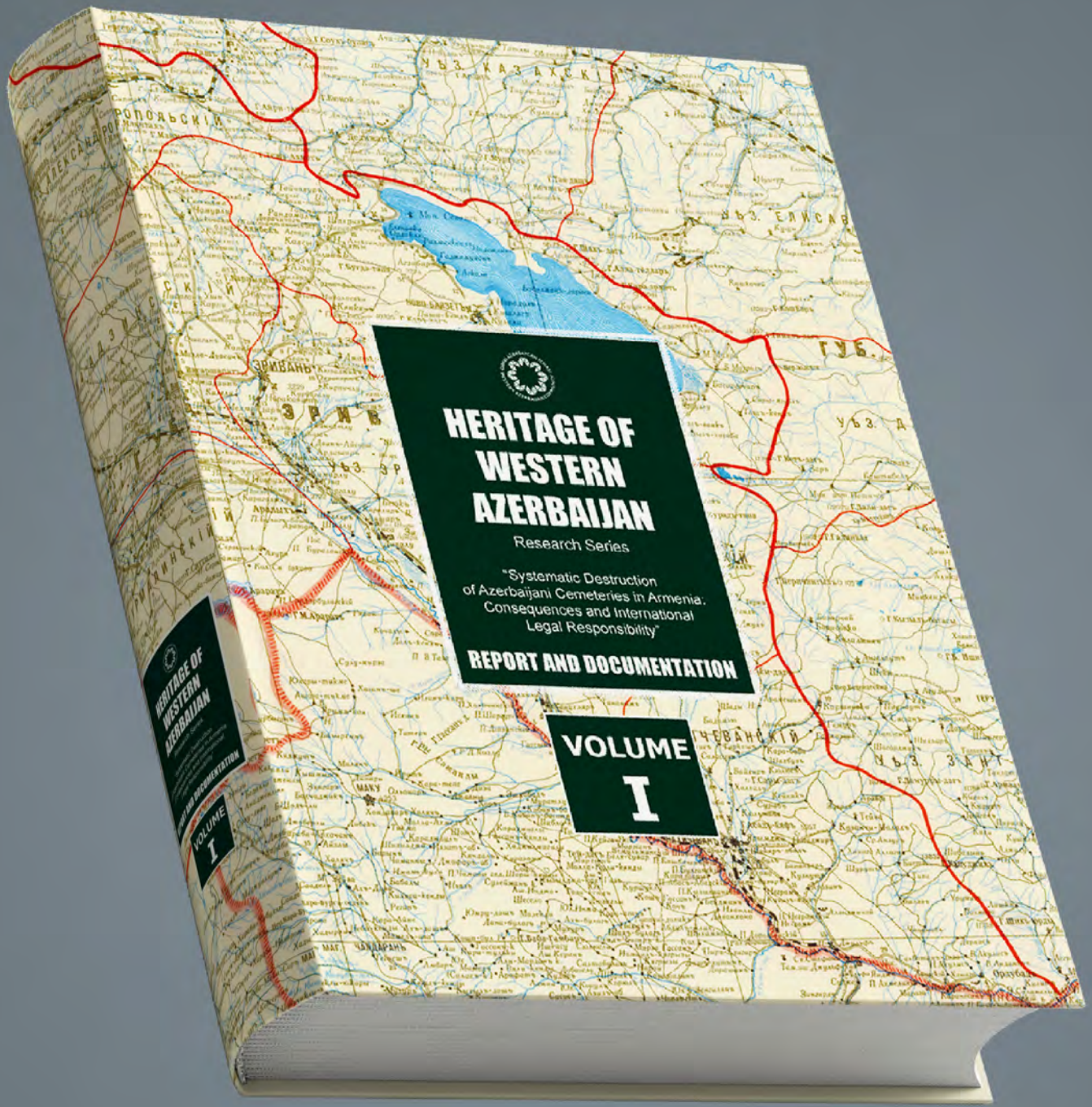
HERITAGE OF WESTERN AZERBAIJAN
Research Series
"Systematic Destruction of Azerbaijani Cemeteries in Armenia: Consequences and International Legal Responsibility"
REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION
VOLUME I

Aziz Alakbarli and Sabuhi Huseynov

HERITAGE OF WESTERN AZERBAIJAN

Research Series

VOLUME I

Systematic Destruction of Azerbaijani Cemeteries in Armenia: Consequences and International Legal Responsibility

REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION

BAKU, 2025

Research Concept Author and Project Director: **Adalat VALIYEV**
Doctor of Sciences in Art Studies, Professor

Academic Editor: **Karim SHUKUROV**
Doctor of Sciences in History, Professor

Reviewers: **Gulchohra MAMMADOVA**
Doctor of Sciences in Architecture, Professor

Nazim MUSTAFA
Doctor of Philosophy in History,
Associate Professor

Shamil AZIZOV
Doctor of Philosophy in Geography,
Associate Professor

Nazim ISMAYILOV
Chairman of the Management Board
Geodesy and Cartography Agency

Editor: **Sarraf HUSEYNOV**

Translated by: **Ismayil JABRAYILOV**

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This report presents the study, historical-comparative analysis, and monitoring of 201 cemeteries historically used by Azerbaijanis within the territory of the present-day Republic of Armenia, employing modern satellite technology. The research utilized military-topographic maps from the 19th and 20th centuries preserved in libraries of various countries, declassified imagery captured by U.S. reconnaissance satellites from the 1960s to the 1980s, and contemporary high-resolution satellite imagery. Modern methodological analysis techniques were employed to monitor the current condition of the existing cemeteries in the region.

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The map used on the report's cover was drafted in 1903 in Tiflis (now Tbilisi) by the Military-Topographic Department of the Caucasus Military District at a scale of 20 versts per inch (8.4 km per cm).

The territory now called Armenia—Western Azerbaijan, including the Iravan district, the Goycha district, the Zangibasar district, and the Zangazur district—was once a land inhabited by Muslims and Azerbaijanis. Unfortunately, Muslims were expelled from these regions, and today, not a single Muslim remains in these lands. This is the result of the policy of Armenian nationalism, Armenian extremism, and Armenian chauvinism.

National Leader Heydar Aliyev
From his speech at the meeting with a large group of participants of the International Symposium "Islamic Civilization in the Caucasus"
December 10, 1998

In the future, you will most certainly go and see your beautiful land of Goycha, your native mountains, springs, and rivers too. You will also see the graves of your ancestors. I have no doubt about this.

National Leader Heydar Aliyev
From his speech at the inauguration of the newly established Ashaghi Agjakend settlement in Goranboy district.
September 13, 2002

Today, we know very well that the Armenian state was established on historical Azerbaijani lands. The Iravan Khanate, the Zangazur district, and the Goycha district are our historical territories. We, Azerbaijanis, must and will return to those lands.

Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
From his speech at Military Unit "N" in Aghdam.
August 6, 2014

The destruction carried out by Armenians in Western Azerbaijan must be brought to the attention of the global community. I am confident that the Western Azerbaijan Community will accomplish this with the support of the Azerbaijani state.

Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
From his speech at a meeting with a group of intellectuals from Western Azerbaijan at the administrative building of the Western Azerbaijan Community.
December 24, 2022.

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS. 1903year

1 INCH IS EQUAL TO 16 VERSTS

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EXPLANATION

- PROVINCES AND VILAYETS
- UYEZD AND DISTRICTS
- FORTRESS AND FORTIFICATIONS
- Towns and settlements that ceased uyezd centers
- Headquarters
- *Cloisters, cossack villages, village, colonies, auls with above 100 homesteads*
- *Kenggerli* — *Small villages, settlements and auls with below 100 homesteads*
- Customs and customs gates
- *Destructioned castles, fortification, towns and villages*
- *Plants and posts*
- *Mail and telegraph stations*
- *Lighthouses and piers*
- *Railway stations*

Ways:
- *Rail*
- *Highway*
- *Carriage*
- *Bullock cart*
- *Cargo transportation*
- *Large rivers, bridges, ferries, crossings*
- *Small rivers*
- *Lakes*

Borders:
- *State*
- *Gubernies and vilayets*
- *Uyezd and districts*

MINISTRY of ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RECOURCES of AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC
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Districts of Western Azerbaijan
(based on the administrative-territorial division of 1970)

EXPLANATION OF HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

- *Aghbaba region*
- *Loru region*
- *Shorayel region*
- *Pambak region*
- *Shamshaddil-Garagoyunlu-Dilijan region*
- *Abaran mahal*
- *Derechichek mahal*
- *Talin mahal*
- *Karbibasar mahal*
- *Gırkhbulag mahal*
- *Iravan city*
- *Zangibasar mahal*
- *Garnibasar mahal*
- *Vedibasar mahal*
- *Goycha mahal*
- *Daralayaz mahal*
- *Zangezur region*

Base map data: *© Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors;* ***Relief model:*** *© Esri Topomap, 2024;* ***Map projection:*** *WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N;* ***Toponyms on the map:*** *© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov,* ***2024***

FOREWORD

The Azerbaijani people have cultivated a rich historical legacy, making unique contributions to global culture through both tangible and intangible heritage. The Gobustan rock art, the Old City (Icherisheher), the Maiden Tower, the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, the Shaki Khan's Palace, along with the Azerbaijani traditions of mugham music, the art of Azerbaijani Ashiqs, carpet weaving, copper craftsmanship, and the "Yalli" dance, are among the numerous Azerbaijani cultural expressions preserved as part of the world's cultural heritage.

With an ancient tradition of statehood in the Caucasus, the Azerbaijani people have established various political entities and khanates throughout history in their current geographical region, including Atropatene, Albania, the Shirvanshahs, the Sajids, the Salarids, the Shaddadids, the Rawadids, the Atabegs, the Aq Qoyunlu, the Qara Qoyunlu, and the Safavids. Throughout history, the Azerbaijani people have heroically resisted foreign invasions and endured historical injustices. Despite these challenges, they have achieved a prominent standing in the modern world. However, Azerbaijani history also includes tragic chapters that have profoundly impacted the nation's development. One of the most painful periods unfolded in the early 19th century when the Russo-Persian Wars (1804–1813 and 1826–1828) led to the division of Azerbaijani territories between the Russian Empire and Iran. The region north of the Araz river was incorporated into Russia, while the southern part was annexed by Iran. Another tragic event occurred during the brief existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918–1920), when, one day after the declaration of the Republic, on May 29, 1918, the Azerbaijan National Council signed a resolution officially ceding Iravan to the Armenians, leading to the establishment of an Armenian state in the western part of Azerbaijan's northern territories.

The Republic of Armenia, established on Azerbaijan's historical lands, initiated a war to seize additional territories of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, pursuing a deliberate and systematic policy of ethnic cleansing and deportation against Azerbaijanis living in their historical lands. This policy continued under Soviet Armenia (1920–1991) and the Republic of Armenia following its independence in 1991. Consequently, Azerbaijanis experienced four waves of deportation and genocide in their historical and ethnic lands—Western Azerbaijan—perpetrated by Armenians and their supporters. The first wave (1905–1907) resulted in the deportation and genocide of 90,000 Azerbaijanis, with between 3,000 and 10,000 killed. The second wave (1918–1920) saw the deportation and genocide of 310,000–320,000 people, including 10,068 killed in the Zangazur district alone. The third wave (1947–1953) led to the deportation of 100,000 Azerbaijanis from 26 districts and the city of Iravan. The fourth wave (1987–1991) involved the deportation of nearly 300,000 Azerbaijanis from 24 districts and 284 settlements, including 13 cities, 12 towns, and 259 villages, with 216 killed during this period.

These tragic chapters of Azerbaijani history remained largely overlooked in historical research for an extended period due to the influence of Soviet ideology. Although they briefly garnered attention toward the collapse of the Soviet Union (1922–1991) and in the early years of independence, a systematic conceptualization of these events was not undertaken. Fundamental changes in this field occurred only after Heydar Aliyev (1993–2003), the National Leader of the Azerbaijani people, returned to power in response to the persistent demands of the population. The National Leader was the first to refer to the territories west of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where present-day Armenia is located, as Western Azerbaijan, based on historical and moral grounds. He stated, "...the area now called Armenia—Western Azerbaijan, including the Iravan district, the Goycha district, the Zangibasar district, and the Zangazur district—was once a land inhabited by Muslims and Azerbaijanis." This statement laid the theoretical and practical foundation for the study of the historical development of Azerbaijanis who lived in the territory of present-day Armenia from ancient times until 1991.

President Ilham Aliyev has further enriched this theoretical and practical foundation. Under his directive, extensive research on the Iravan Khanate has been conducted, resulting in the publication of fundamental historical works. During a meeting with a group of intellectuals from Western Azerbaijan on December 24, 2022, President Ilham Aliyev presented historically and legally justified principles for the dignified and safe repatriation of Western Azerbaijanis to their ancestral lands. He stated, "Western Azerbaijanis represent a community that has been unlawfully subjected to multiple deportations. Their rights must be restored, and they must return to their ancestral lands." Guided by these principles, the Western Azerbaijan Community developed and initiated the implementation of the Concept of Repatriation for Western Azerbaijanis.

The Republic of Armenia did not limit its actions to a policy of ethnic cleansing, genocide, and deportation against Western Azerbaijanis; it also sought to erase their historical presence from these lands and efface their tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Identifying the historical dynamics of Armenia's criminal actions and pursuing its accountability under international law through irrefutable evidence have been established as key objectives of the Concept of Repatriation for Western Azerbaijanis.

Extensive research has been conducted on the policies of cultural genocide pursued by successive Armenian governments against Azerbaijani toponyms, historical landmarks, and cultural monuments in these territories. As a result, a vast collection of irrefutable evidence and documents has been compiled.

Armenia's policies against the historical presence of Azerbaijanis on its territory have extended beyond deportation and genocide. A primary objective of this campaign has been the obliteration of Azerbaijani cemeteries, a significant part of the region's tangible cultural heritage. Before 1991, more than 700 Azerbaijani cemeteries existed in Western Azerbaijan, now within the territory of present-day Armenia. This is supported by hundreds of maps, documents, photographs, video recordings, witness testimonies, and modern satellite imagery.

Cemeteries hold profound significance for members of religious and ethnic communities, serving as sacred sites that establish spiritual connections between the living and the deceased. These sites are established and maintained in accordance with religious norms and customary traditions that govern their location, external appearance, and permissible activities and behaviors. Consequently, the destruction of cemeteries can lead to the loss of cultural and historical heritage, cause social and psychological distress, inflict spiritual and religious harm on community members, disrupt social structure, and create legal and property-related issues under international human rights law.

Given the gravity of these concerns, the systematic destruction of Azerbaijani cemeteries by Armenia and its consequences have, for the first time in Azerbaijan, become the subject of comprehensive research. This study is dedicated to documenting Armenia's deliberate policy of vandalism against cemeteries in Western Azerbaijan, the historical and ethnic lands of Azerbaijanis. We are confident that this research will play a significant role in presenting a case for Armenia's legal accountability before relevant international organizations. Drawing the attention of international organizations and world governments to this issue will help prevent the complete erasure of the 50 Azerbaijani cemeteries that remain in ruins in Armenia. Thus, like many other cultural heritage sites created by Azerbaijanis, our cemeteries will be preserved and will serve as significant sites of remembrance and visitation for members of the Western Azerbaijan Community.

The Heritage of Western Azerbaijan research series is planned to comprise five volumes. Volumes I, II, and III will document Azerbaijani cemeteries deliberately obliterated by the Armenian state in Western Azerbaijan. Volume IV will focus on mosques that were demolished in Western Azerbaijan, while Volume V will document local shrines and mausoleums that were destroyed or damaged in the region.

This volume contains a two-part report. The first part outlines its objective and defines the scope of the research. It discusses the methodological principles employed in the study and provides detailed information on remote sensing techniques and the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). The sources used in this research are classified into four groups and characterized: (1) topographic publications and satellite imagery; (2) publicly available documents and archival records; (3) cinematic and photographic materials; and (4) memoirs and interviews of Azerbaijanis deported from Armenia. This section also outlines the research stages and examines the methodology for assessing cemetery damage and its application. The most crucial part of the report is the systematization and analysis of the facts, culminating in the overall findings. Finally, the report establishes Armenia's international legal responsibility for the destruction of Azerbaijani cemeteries.

The second part of the report comprises documentation that was fundamental to its development.

Professor Adalat VALIYEV
Doctor of Sciences in Art Studies

PART I

Report on the Systematic Destruction of Azerbaijani Cemeteries in Armenia: Consequences and International Legal Responsibility

1. Objective

The objective of this research is to document the condition of Azerbaijani cemeteries—one of the most significant components of Azerbaijan's tangible cultural heritage in the Republic of Armenia—and assess the impact of the discriminatory policies implemented against them. Additionally, this study aims to determine the scale of destruction and evaluate the extent of damage inflicted on these cemeteries.

By achieving these objectives, the research identifies the underlying factors contributing to the destruction of Azerbaijani cemeteries and provides predictions regarding potential future destruction. Ultimately, based on irrefutable evidence, the report outlines mechanisms within the framework of international law to establish accountability for these acts and to prevent their continuation.

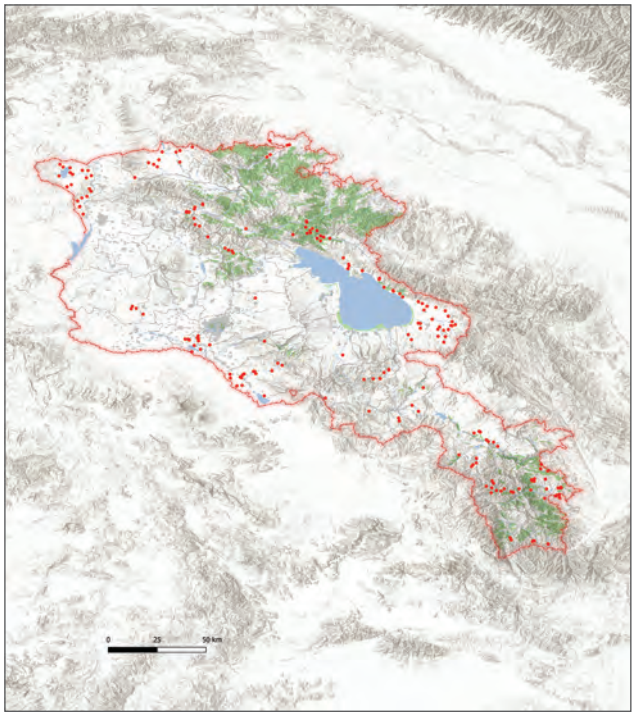
GOMUR VILLAGE CEMETERY

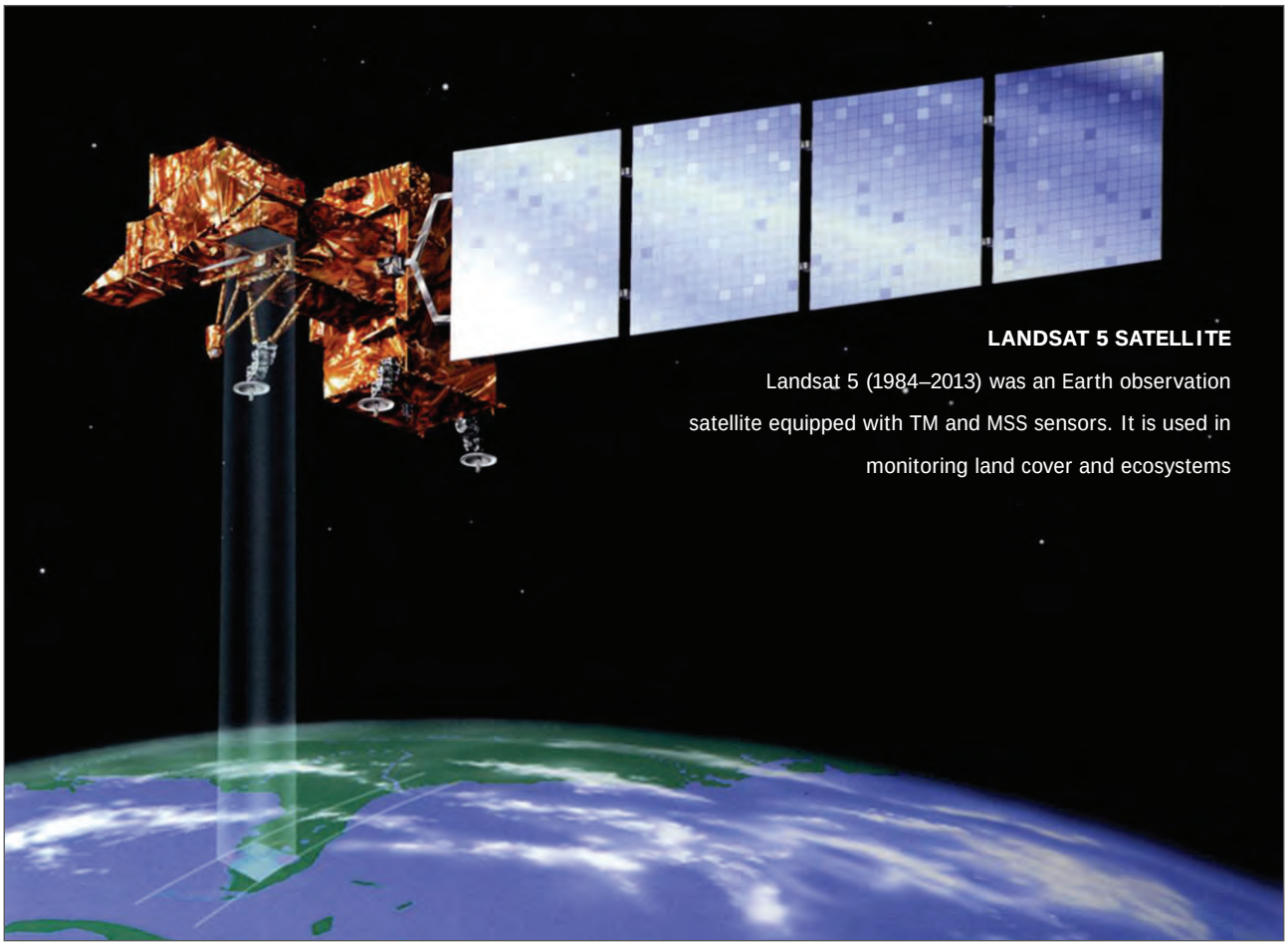
Drone image: DJI Mavic Pro | © 2024 Transcaucasian Trail | December 2, 2018

2. Subject of Research

The primary focus of this research is the cemeteries abandoned following the last wave of deportations of Azerbaijanis from their historical and ethnic lands, Western Azerbaijan—present-day Armenia—between 1987 and 1991. These cemeteries, which serve as significant manifestations of tangible cultural heritage, not only attest to the centuries-long presence of Azerbaijanis in these territories but have also suffered neglect and deliberate destruction in recent times.

As part of the research, a comprehensive database has been compiled, covering 172 settlements inhabited solely by Azerbaijanis and 105 settlements inhabited by both Azerbaijanis and Armenians across 24 districts of Armenia's current administrative division. In this database, priority has been given to systematizing data on cemeteries. This approach aims to preserve their historical and ethnographic significance while documenting the policy of erasing Azerbaijani heritage.





LANDSAT 5 SATELLITE

Landsat 5 (1984–2013) was an Earth observation satellite equipped with TM and MSS sensors. It is used in monitoring land cover and ecosystems

3. Methodological Principles of Research

Since the research objectives consist of a complex set of interrelated issues, the application of appropriate methodological principles is necessary to ensure their effective implementation. As an integral part of tangible cultural heritage, cemeteries serve as a subject of study across multiple scientific disciplines. Aligned with the established objectives, this research adopts a multidisciplinary approach, with a primary focus on archaeology and related scientific fields.

3.1. Remote Sensing

In the modern era, remote sensing, particularly the analysis of images obtained from artificial satellites (hereinafter referred to as "satellites"), plays a crucial role in documenting archaeological sites and significantly enhances research effectiveness.[1] In recent years, satellite imagery has become an essential tool for documenting historical sites and monumental archaeological structures, leading

1. R. Lasaponara, N. Masini, R. Holmgren, and Y. Backe Forsberg, "Integration of Aerial and Satellite Remote Sensing for Archaeological Investigations: A Case Study of the Etruscan Site of San Giovenale," *Journal of Geophysics Engineering* 9, no. 4 (2012): 26–39, https://www.scopus.com; A. Georgopoulos, "Areal and Satellite Remote Sensing for World Heritage Monitoring," *World Heritage*, no. 98 (April 2021): 50–53.; S. Mobaied və J. Rudant, "New Method for Environmental Monitoring in Armed Conflict Zones: A Case Study of Syria," *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 191 (2019): 643.

to the widespread adoption of remote sensing methods.[2]

This method's primary advantage is that it enables researchers to analyze sites without physical presence in the area. These capabilities facilitate remote spatial measurements and site analysis.

Although remote sensing cannot substitute for field research, it provides precise site documentation, aiding in the assessment of historical site characteristics and research potential. Notably, high-resolution satellites used in recent years have enabled more accurate analyses, capturing images with resolutions of just a few decimeters.[3] Furthermore, remote sensing offers the capability to analyze areas of interest across different temporal periods.[4]

This methodology enables the assessment of both natural and human-induced landscape changes over specific periods through analysis of archived satellite imagery, from the earliest available images to the present day. These images, now serving as valuable data sources, are preserved in specialized archives.

Remote sensing is particularly valuable in unstable areas with security risks, including regions affected by armed conflicts. Given the absence of a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the strong position of revanchist forces in Armenia, this methodological approach is especially significant.

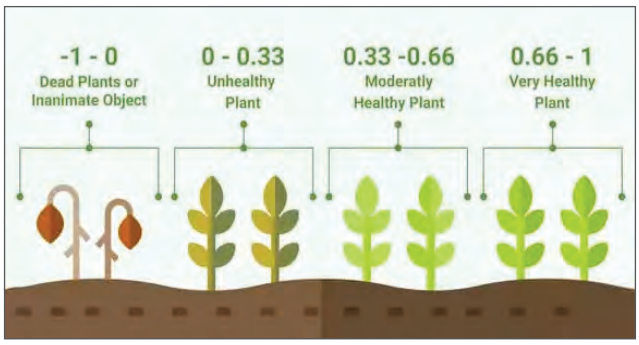
This research methodology integrates modern technologies with historical studies, facilitating objective assessment of cultural heritage treatment in conflict zones.

The application of this method requires high-resolution imagery obtained through multi-temporal remote sensing. Conducting such research requires the use of multi-year satellite imagery, with a particular emphasis on contemporary high-resolution images.

3.2. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to quantify vegetation greenness, understand vegetation density, and assess changes in plant health.

In the context of this research, the NDVI values of cemetery vegetation serve as indicators for assessing vegetation health and growth. NDVI measures the difference in plant photon reflectance and is primarily calculated using data from multispectral satellite imagery and aerial photographs.



2. B. H. Menze və J. A. Ur, "Mapping Patterns of Long-Term Settlement in Northern Mesopotamia at a Large Scale," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 109, no. 14 (2012): 778–87, https://www.scopus.com; B. Rondell, S. Stride, və J. J. Garcia-Granero, "Soviet Military Maps and Archaeological Survey in the Samarkand Region," *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 14, no. 3 (May–June 2013): 270–76; E. Cunliffe, "Archaeological Site Damage in the Cycle of War and Peace: A Syrian Case Study," *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* 2, no. 3 (2014): 229–47; S. Parcak, "Archaeological Looting in Egypt: A Geospatial View (Case Studies from Saqqara, Lisht and el Hibeh)," *Near Eastern Archaeology* 78, no. 3 (2015): 196–203; C. Hritz, "Remote Sensing of Cultural Heritage in Iraq: A Case Study of Isin," *American Academic Research Institute in Iraq Newsletter* 3, no. 1 (2008): 1–8; M. Van Ess et al., "Detection of Looting Activities at Archaeological Sites in Iraq Using Ikonos Imagery," in *Angewandte Geoinformatik 2006: Beiträge Zum 18. AGIT-Symposium*, red. J. Strobl, T. Blaschke, və G. Griesebner (Salzburg, 2006), 669–78.

3, E. Matoušková et al., "Using Remotely Sensed Data for Documentation of Archaeological Sites in Northeastern Mesopotamia," *International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences* XLI-B5 (2016); S. Parcak, "Satellite Remote Sensing Methods for Monitoring Archaeological Tells in the Middle East," *Journal of Field Archaeology* 32, no. 1 (2007): 62–81.

4. K. Pavelka və E. Matoušková, "From Declassified Satellite Images to VHR Data: Temporal Analysis of City Growth," in *Proceedings of 1st Workshop on Temporal Analyses of Satellite Images* (Paris: EARSeL, 2012), 150–58; K. Pavelka və E. Matoušková, "Combining Different Data Sources for City Growth Analysis and Architectural Heritage Mapping," in *Monitoring and Modeling of Global Changes: A Geomatics Perspective* (Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands, 2015), 37–62.

NDVI values range from -1 to +1:

- **0.1-0.4:** *Low NDVI values indicate arid and dry regions, suggesting sparse and unhealthy vegetation.*
- **0.4-0.6:** *These values represent healthy vegetation cover.*
- **0.6 and above:** *High NDVI values indicate dense and healthy vegetation cover.*

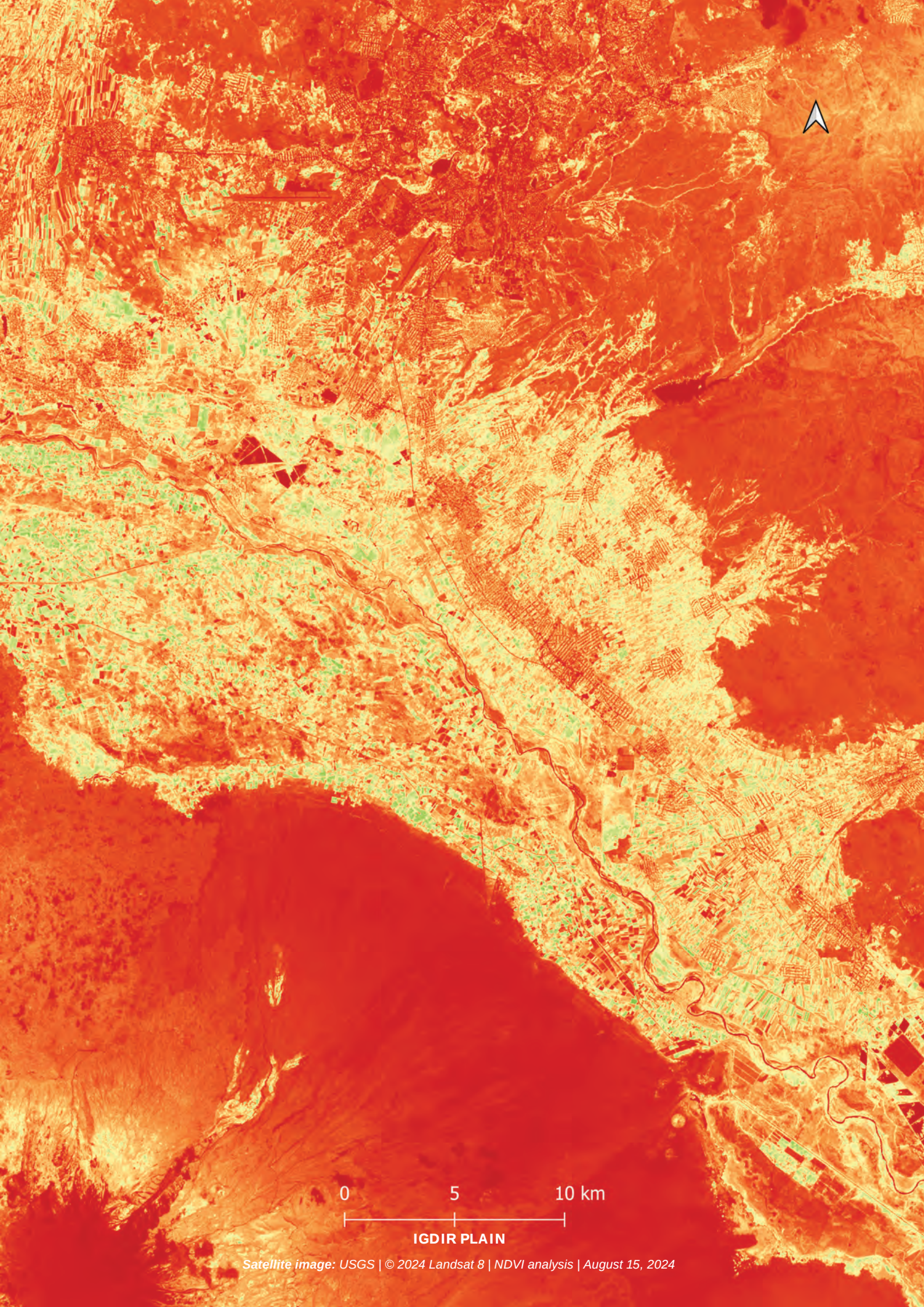
Cemetery areas typically display lower NDVI values due to limited deliberate planting, sparse natural vegetation, or absence of vegetation in cases of complete destruction.

NDVI is traditionally calculated using the normalized difference between red (R) and near-infrared (NIR) reflectance values. In this study, NDVI values derived from Landsat 4 and Landsat 5's third and fourth spectral bands were analyzed to determine the timeline of the destruction of Azerbaijani cemeteries in Armenia between 1990 and 1999. This analysis was used to identify periods when cemetery vegetation was replaced by cultivated grain fields or orchards.

The obtained images were processed using the following formula within the Geographic Information System (GIS), enabling the generation of NDVI-processed satellite imagery.

$$NDVI = \frac{NIR - Red}{NIR + Red}$$

This approach proved highly effective, providing evidence of the destruction timelines of several ancient cemeteries. Specifically, the application of this method identified the destruction timeline of cemeteries in the Azerbaijani-populated villages of Garalar and Shirazli, as well as other village cemeteries in Ararat province (formerly the Vedi district of the Armenian SSR).



Satellite image: *USGS | © 2024 Landsat 8 | NDVI analysis | August 15, 2024*

4. Sources:

Classification and Characteristics

The identification of sources related to cemeteries in the historical and ethnic lands of Azerbaijanis, located within the territory of present-day Armenia, was of particular importance for this research. Based on this, the sources have been classified as follows: topographic materials (maps, plans, etc.); satellite imagery; printed documents and archival records; photographic materials; and memoirs of Azerbaijanis deported from Armenia.

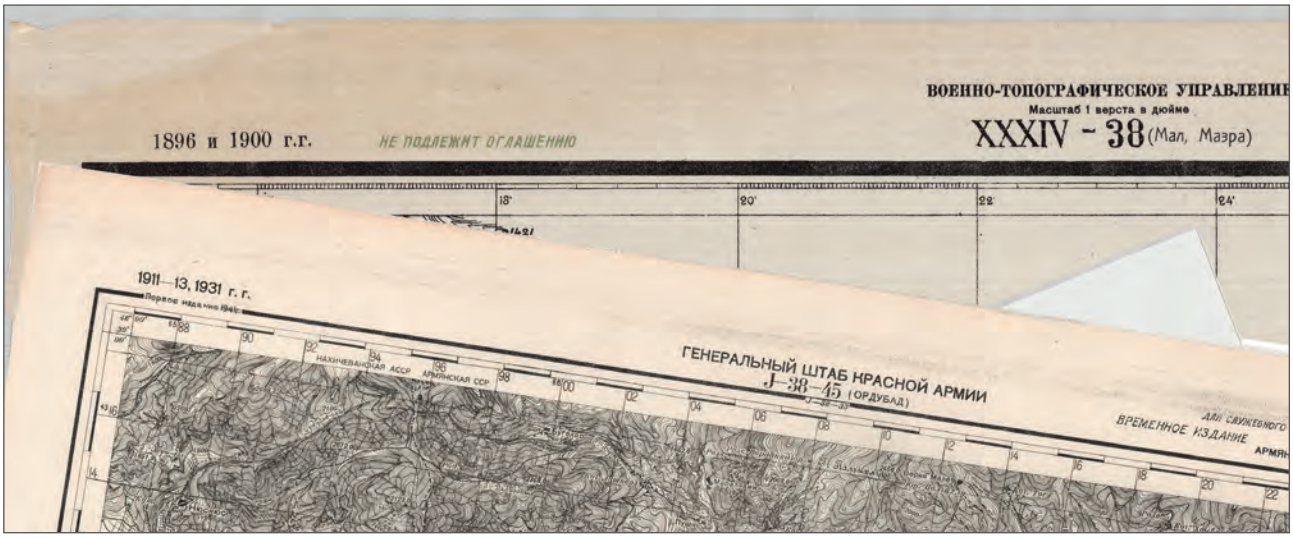
4.1. Topographic Publications and Their Classification

ONE-VERST MAPS

One-verst maps were originally produced by military topographers of the Russian Empire in the 1880s. Later, during the 1930s and 1940s, they were updated by the USSR Military-Topographic Administration.

Among topographic publications, the maps of the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union are particularly significant. These maps can be classified as follows:

– Military-topographic maps developed by military topographers of the Russian Empire at a *1:84,000 scale* from 1894 to 1897 and from 1912 to 1913, later reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey. These maps cover only the areas along the western borders of Armenia.



– Military-topographic maps at a 1*:42,000 scale (One-verst)*, originally published in the 1880s by military topographers of the Russian Empire and later revised and reprinted during the 1930s and 1940s with additions by the Military Topographers' Directorate of the General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the USSR.

– Military-topographic maps at *1:50,000* and *1:100,000 scales*, based on maps from the Russian Empire and revised and reprinted during the 1930s and 1940s by the Military Topographers' Directorate and Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the USSR. These maps cover a narrow area along the southern borders of the Republic of Armenia.

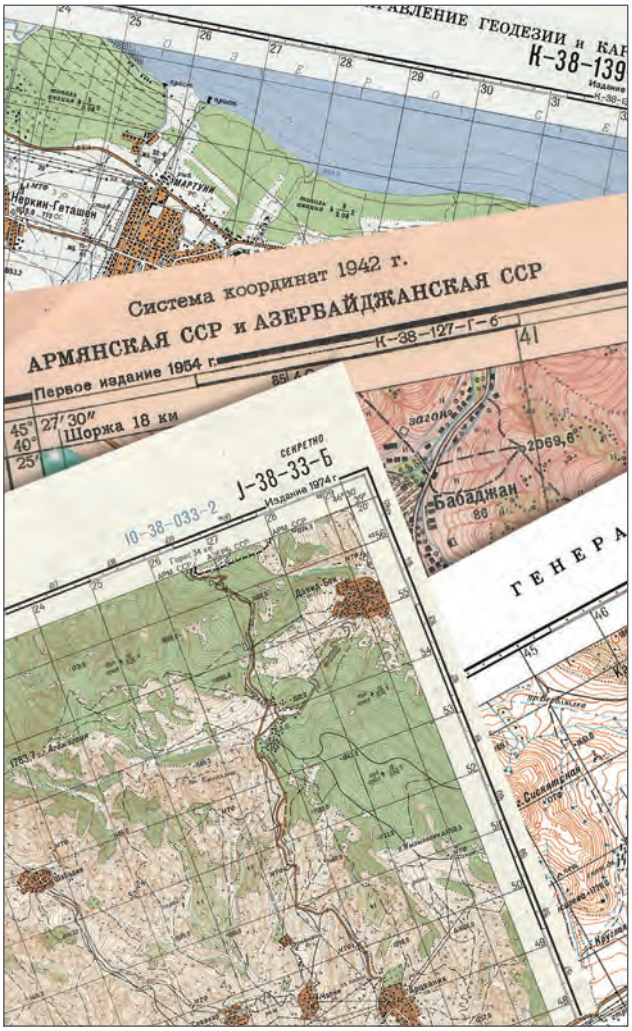
– Topographic maps at a *1:210,000 scale (Five-verst)*, published between 1920 and 1940 by the General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the USSR, the General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the USSR, and the General Staff of the Red Army of the USSR. These maps cover the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia.

– Maps at a *1:25,000 scale*, published in the 1950s by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR. These maps cover a narrow strip of territory bordering the Azerbaijan SSR.

– Maps at a *1:50,000 scale*, published in the 1970s and 1980s by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR. These maps cover the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia.

– Maps at a *1:100,000 scale*, published in the 1970s and 1990s by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR. These maps cover the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

– Maps at a *1:200,000 scale*, published in the 1970s and 1990s by the General Staff of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR. These maps



cover the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia, except for the western Zangazur region.

The presented military and civilian maps can be divided into two groups. The first group consists of 1:84,000[1] scale maps (known as *"two-verst maps"*), originally prepared by the military topographers of the Russian Empire and published in the 1880s, from 1894 to 1897, and from 1912 to 1913, then reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey based on the detailed one-verst maps. This group also includes 1:42,000 scale maps (known as *"one-verst maps"*), which were reprinted in the 1930s-1940s by the Directorate of Military Topographers of the General Staff of

1. Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität Greifswald. GeoGREIF Geographische Sammlungen. Available from: https://greif.uni-greifswald.de/geogreif.

the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, later renamed the Military Topography Directorate.

Although these maps belong to coordinate systems that predate the Pulkovo Geographic Coordinate System, they have the capability to indicate cemeteries and their religious composition. These maps cover the entire territory of Armenia, except for the western Zangazur region. The upper right corner of the maps bears the markings "Секретно" (*Classified*) and *"Не подлежит оглашению" (Not subject to disclosure)*.

The stamps on these maps bear the names of Nazi Germany's intelligence agencies. Originally seized by German intelligence agencies during World War II, these maps were later confiscated by the U.S. Army following Germany's defeat. They remained under U.S. intelligence agencies' possession until they were eventually declassified and transferred to the Library of Congress.

Additionally, the well-known "five-verst maps" (1:210,000 scale) also include the coordinates of numerous ancient cemeteries. Covering the entire territory of Armenia, these maps are of great importance for determining the coordinates of many Azerbaijani cemeteries that existed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Copies of these maps are available at the Library of Congress of the United States.[2]

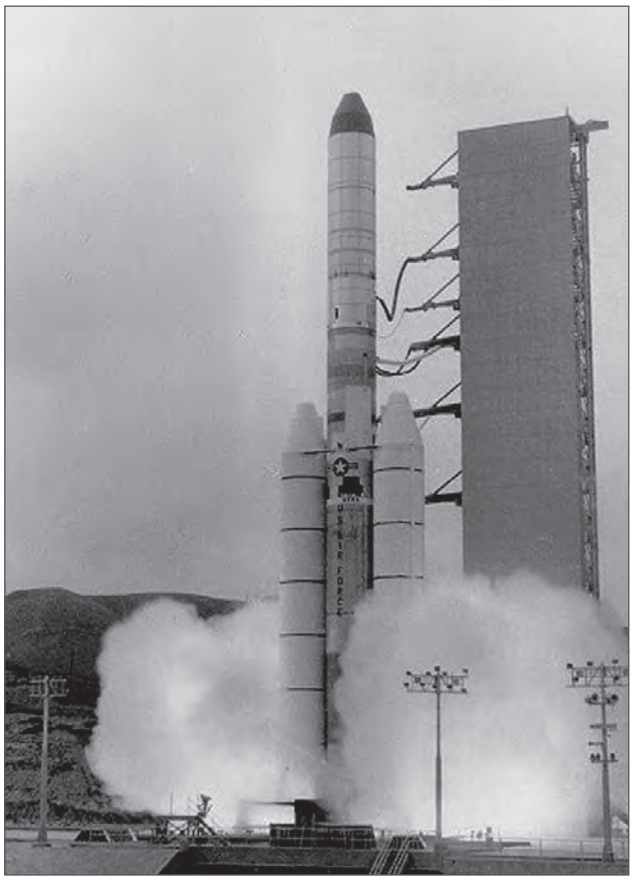
The second group consists of classified maps produced and published by the USSR General Staff between 1945 and 1990 at scales of 1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000, and 1:200,000. The 1:50,000-scale maps provide precise cemetery coordinates.

2. Rusia. Armiia. Korpus voennykh topografov. Topograficheskaia karta Zakavkazia masshtaba 1:42000. 1:42,000. [1 in. = 1 verst]. Maps: some col., some photocopies; 105 x 61 cm or smaller. G7120 s42.R8 MLC.

4.2. Satellite Imagery. The Importance of the Hexagon Program

Topographic maps allow for the approximate identification of cemetery locations; however, in some cases, contemporary satellite imagery may reveal no visible traces at the identified coordinates. Therefore, to accurately determine coordinates and analyze the condition of cemeteries during both the Soviet era and the present day, the following satellite imagery should be utilized:

– Declassified reconnaissance satellite imagery (1960s-1980s) from Corona, KH-7 Gambit, and primarily KH-9 Hexagon programs.



KH-9 HEXAGON

KH-9 Hexagon satellite launch,

June 15, 1971.

– Landsat 4 and Landsat 5 imagery (1982-2007) and Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 imagery (2014-2017)

– High-resolution satellite imagery (1999-2023), publicly available from Digital Globe, Maxar, CNES, and Airbus, including images from Ikonos, WorldView-1, WorldView-2, WorldView-3, QuickBird 2, GeoEye-1, GeoEye-2, Spot 5, Spot 6, and other satellites.

The Hexagon program refers to a series of reconnaissance satellites launched into low Earth orbit by the United States during the Cold War. Between 1972 and 1986, the program deployed twenty reconnaissance satellites designed to provide high-resolution images of Earth, particularly for monitoring strategic weapons technologies in the USSR following the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. These reconnaissance satellites, code-named KeyHole-9 (KH-9), were equipped with two rotating panoramic film cameras with a focal length of 152.4 cm, capable of capturing images with a resolution of up to 0.8 meters.[3]

The twenty reconnaissance satellites launched as part of the Hexagon program captured imagery of nearly every point on Earth between 1972 and 1986, including the Armenian SSR, which was then part of the Soviet Union. These images remained classified until the late 20th century. In total, the Hexagon program produced approximately 29,000 frames covering the entire planet, with most locations captured in three separate frames taken at different times.[4]

In 2002, the classified status of the imagery captured by the Hexagon program's reconnaissance satellites was lifted.[5]

3. M. Burnett, *Hexagon (KH-9) Mapping Camera Program and Evaluation* (Chantilly, VA: National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), 2012), Center for the Study of National Reconnaissance (CSNR).; Andrei Surazakov and Valentin Aizen, "Position Accuracy Evaluation of Declassified Hexagon KH-9 Mapping Camera Imagery," *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*, 2010.
4. William S.H. and Loana A.O., *Archaeology from Historical Aerial and Satellite Archives* (London: Springer, 2019), 344.
5. Danelli D. High resolution satellite imagery and archaeology: a theoretical approach. Археология и геоинформатика. 2019; (9): М.: ИА РАН.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) was established under the U.S. Department of the Interior by a congressional act in 1879.[6] As an agency specializing in water, earth, and biological sciences, as well as civilian cartography, the USGS collects scientific data, conducts monitoring, and performs analyses on the state and challenges of natural resources. With extensive experience and resources, the agency facilitates large-scale, multidisciplinary research. The Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center of the USGS serves as a data provider, having scanned and archived the 29,000 declassified KH-9 imagery negatives.

For this research, KH-9 satellite imagery of Armenian territory, obtained through the Hexagon program, was retrieved from this archive.

4.3. Printed and Archival Records, Cinematic and Photographic Materials

The research's source base includes archival documents and materials published during both the Russian Empire and the Soviet periods. Additionally, archival research in Azerbaijan, Russia, and Georgia has uncovered documents related to cemeteries. The cadastral-administrative surveys conducted during the Russian Empire period are particularly important. The advent of photography and cinematography introduced additional visual documentation of cemeteries.

4.4. Memoirs and Interviews of Azerbaijanis Deported from Armenia

Since the establishment of the Armenian state on Azerbaijani lands in May 1918, various administrations—including the Dashnak government (1918–1920), the Soviet government

6. For more details, visit: www.usgs.gov

ARCHIVAL RECORDS

(1920–1991), and the modern Armenian government (since 1991)—have systematically carried out the mass deportation of Azerbaijanis from Armenia. As a result, numerous memoirs documenting the experiences of Azerbaijanis deported from Armenia have emerged. This phenomenon became more systematic following the final wave of deportations between 1987 and 1991. During this period, interviews were also conducted with Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia, documenting their experiences using the oral history technique. Consequently, a vast collection of oral testimonies documenting these deportations was compiled. These resources are currently preserved at the Western Azerbaijan Community. An examination of these resources has revealed that one of the most frequently discussed topics by refugees was the cemeteries where their ancestors were buried.

These two sources have played a crucial role in providing factual information related to Azerbaijani cemeteries in Armenia and highlighting their significance in the spiritual consciousness of the Azerbaijani people.

BOYUK MAZRA VILLAGE, BASARKECHAR DISTRICT

Satellite image: KH-9 Hexagon, October 10, 1983. © 2024, provided by USGS

5. RESEARCH STAGES

The database was developed using QGIS, specialized Geographic Information System (GIS) software, and the research proceeded through the following stages:

In the initial stage, topographic maps, 20th-century satellite imagery, and modern pre-processed satellite imagery were imported into the GIS environment using the WGS 84 coordinate system.

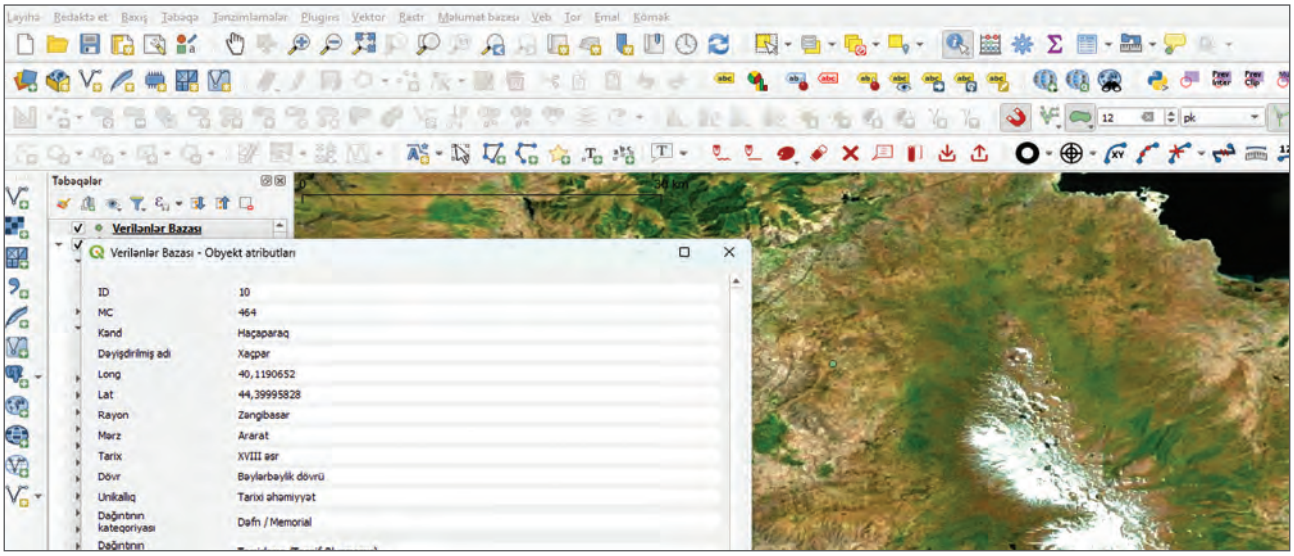
In the second stage, the coordinates of Azerbaijani cemeteries recorded on topographic maps were collected.

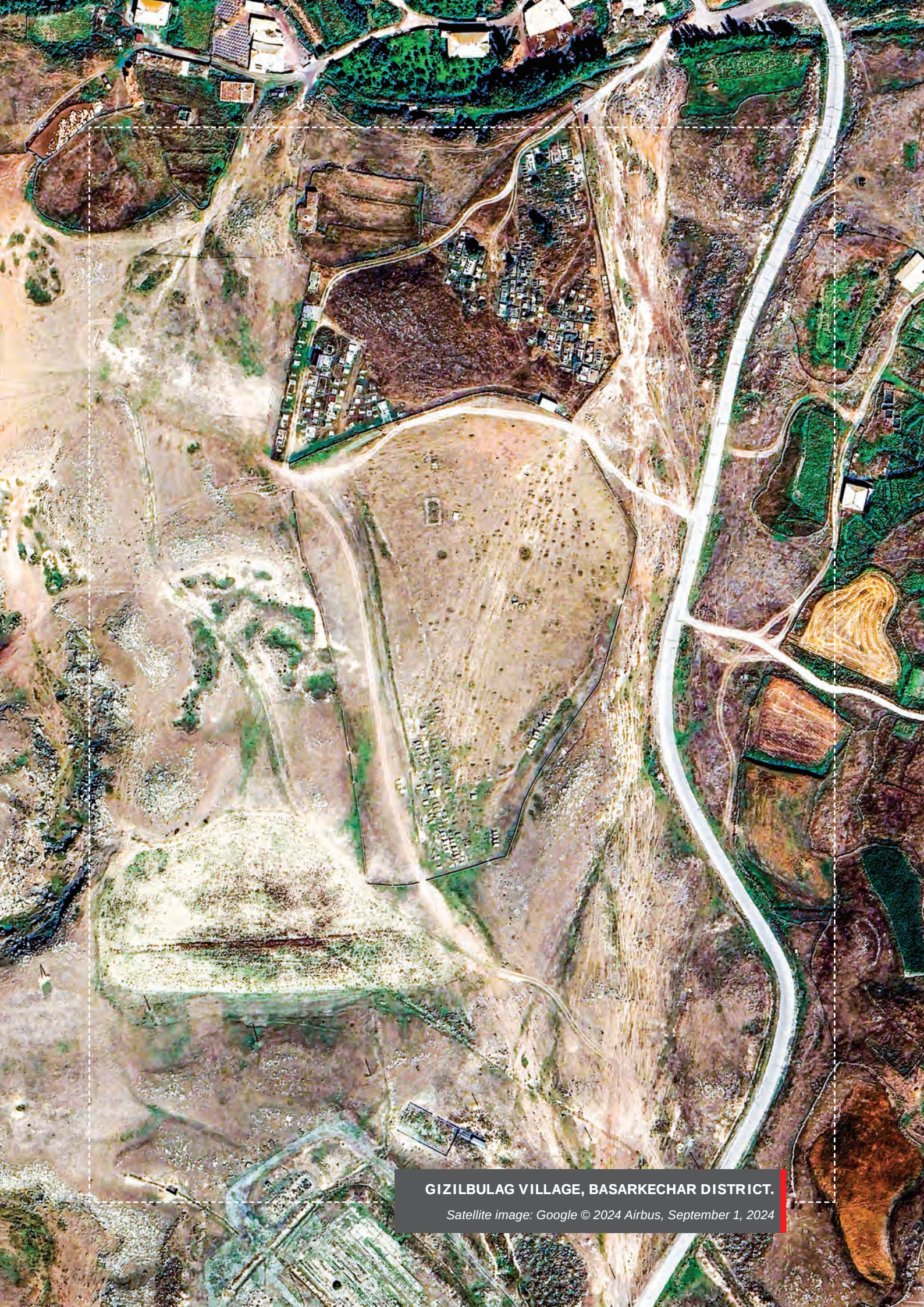
In the third stage, with coordinates facilitating spatial integration of the database, refinement of cemetery coordinates within the GIS environment was initiated, along with verifying their existence using 20th-century satellite imagery. At this stage, spatial data for each cemetery's coordinates from topographic maps were cross-checked and confirmed using satellite imagery.

In the fourth stage, spatial and temporal analyses of the village cemetery locations were conducted through the synthesis of satellite imagery and the existing GIS database. For each area, changes from the late 20th century to the early 21st century were interpreted, the extent of destruction was analyzed, and aerospace monitoring was conducted to assess chronological changes. Additionally, the causes of destruction were determined, and the extent of damage was quantified.

PROJECT FILE IN QGIS

A screenshot of the project created in QGIS, including the database of the selected cemetery and the collection of other geographic datasets used for comparative analysis.





GIZILBULAG VILLAGE, BASARKECHAR DISTRICT.

Satellite image: Google © 2024 Airbus, September 1, 2024

6. Damage Assessment of Cemeteries:

Methodology and Implementation

One of the most commonly used methods for analysing damage to cemeteries is detecting the dynamics of changes over time. To conduct change detection analysis, at least two images must be compared: one taken before the destruction process and the other from a later date after the destruction has occurred. Image comparison reveals changes in object quantity and visual dimensions, enabling the determination of the destruction timeline. For optimal reliability, post-destruction images should be captured as close as possible to the event date.

For this study, assessing the condition of the area during the Soviet period was facilitated through imagery captured by military reconnaissance satellites deployed during the Cold War in the latter half of the 20th century.

During this period, military reconnaissance satellites, including *CORONA*, *KH-7 Gambit*, and *KH-9 Hexagon*, served as primary tools for detailed strategic area monitoring. Imagery from these satellites enabled the assessment of Azerbaijani cemetery conditions through the first half of the 1980s.

The CORONA program (1959–1972), the United States' first photo-reconnaissance satellite program, conducted large-scale monitoring by capturing images from orbit and returning them to Earth via special film capsules. While these satellites evolved from 8-meter to 2–3-meter resolution and were invaluable for strategic site observation, their imagery was less effective for cemetery research.

The KH-7 Gambit program (1963–1967) was developed as a successor to the CORONA program, designed to provide higher-resolution imagery. With a resolution of up to 0.6 meters, KH-7 played a crucial role in the detailed monitoring of military sites. KH-7 imagery is particularly valuable for studying the condition of historical and cultural heritage sites belonging to Azerbaijanis.

The KH-9 Hexagon program (1971–1986) was designed to capture imagery of larger areas using KH-9 Hexagon satellites. Their combination of high resolution and extensive cover-

age enabled long-term monitoring of cultural heritage sites.

This study utilized digitized duplicates of declassified satellite imagery films, preserved at the Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS) under the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of the Department of the Interior. The original photographic films are stored at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These digital images facilitated a more precise examination of Azerbaijani cemeteries in the second half of the 20th century.

The satellite imagery provided evidence documenting the destruction of Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage sites within the territory of present-day Armenia.

By transferring a large number of obtained archival images into the GIS environment, the extent of cemeteries could be determined up until dates closest to 1987, when the final deportation of the Azerbaijani population from Armenia began (using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery captured on October 10, 1983, A.A., S.H.).

While the resolution of Hexagon satellite imagery is sufficient to identify large structures and monumental tombs, it presents significant challenges in the identification and assessment of cemeteries. The primary constraint is the 0.6–1.2-meter resolution of Hexagon imagery, which hampers the detection (selection) of tombstones less than 1.5 meters in width. This is particularly relevant as Azerbaijani graves typically had smaller grave slabs with modest width and length. Identifying older graves is even more challenging, as over time, graves begin to subside into the ground, making tombstones increasingly difficult to discern in the imagery. In abandoned cemeteries, vegetation overgrowth further complicates tombstone detection.

KH-9 HEXAGON Reconnaissance Satellite,
U.S. Air Force National Museum

Despite these challenges, the areas containing relatively large structures within cemeteries are often visible, as light and shadow patterns can create a blurred relief effect. This visibility made it possible to identify similarities characteristic of cemeteries in the region through Hexagon imagery, and these observations were incorporated into the research.[1]

High-resolution satellite imagery of the modern era includes images captured by satellites operated by DigitalGlobe, Maxar, CNES, and Airbus, such as Ikonos, WorldView-1, WorldView-2, WorldView-3, QuickBird 2, GeoEye-1, GeoEye-2, Spot 5, Spot 6, and others. The

1. Cemetery locations indicated in topographic maps but unidentifiable in Soviet-era satellite imagery are excluded from this phase of research. These sites require further verification and additional archival satellite imagery analysis in subsequent research stages.

The recovery of film capsules ejected from the CORONA reconnaissance satellite, *U.S. Air Force National Museum*

high-resolution satellite imagery used in this research dates primarily from 2003 onward, with a limited number of images from the Ikonos satellite covering the period between 1999 and 2001. However, these images do not provide complete coverage of the Republic of Armenia's territory, as most available imagery dates from 2006–2011 onward.

For cemeteries destroyed before 1999 and 2003, tracking the destruction process and determining its timeframe using high-resolution satellite imagery presents significant challenges. In such cases, it is necessary to assume that the destruction occurred before the earliest available high-resolution satellite image was captured. Since more satellite imagery was available from 2003 onward, there are sufficient images to conduct assessments during this period. In damage assessment, the visibility of destruction traces will vary depending on the time elapsed between pre- and post-event imagery, as well as seasonal weather conditions and environmental changes.

The Azerbaijani cemetery near Lok village, located in present-day Syunik Province of the Republic of Armenia (formerly Meghri district of the Armenian SSR), was completely obliterated following a fire in 2009. However, since no satellite imagery was captured shortly after the fire, no visible traces of the fire remain in the available image taken three years later. Though no immediate post-fire satellite imagery exists, the presence of terracing, which inhibits dense vegetation growth, and contextual suspicions regarding the event's occurrence indicate that such landscape alterations likely emerged after the fire.

The research objectives extended beyond determining cemetery existence or destruction to include assessing the extent of damage, identifying causes of destruction, anticipating potential threats, and establishing protection requirements.

High-resolution satellite imagery provides clear evidence of complete cemetery destruction through various means: land plowing, orchard establishment, terracing, pastoral conversion, greenhouse installation, bulldozing, road construction, reservoir creation, and tombstone looting.

The research revealed unequivocal evidence of widespread cemetery destruction. In modern satellite imagery, shadows of headstones are usually absent in affected cemeteries, with most grave slabs either displaced or, in some cases, no longer visible. While tombstone misalignment can occur naturally in unmaintained cemeteries, observations indicate that many alterations were caused by deliberate human intervention rather than natural processes. All of these signs indicate cemetery looting and destruction. In damaged cemeteries where post-destruction imagery is available, scattered stone, marble, and basalt fragments create distinctive brightness patterns in satellite imagery,

typically indicating vandalism. Assessment of such cases has been supplemented with photographic and video documentation from these sites.

The assessments of cemetery conditions are primarily based on historical and contemporary satellite imagery, as well as the visual comparison of the site's condition in photographic and video imagery. It is crucial to note that these assessments focus solely on the structural condition of cultural heritage sites, as they rely only on evidence from satellite imagery and other visual sources.

Modern satellite imagery alone is insufficient to identify certain types of damage in cemeteries, such as the removal of tombstone elements, gunfire damage, the erasure of inscriptions and images from tombstones, and natural erosion. Such damage can only be verified through photographic and video evidence. Consequently, findings related to these damage types are excluded from the study when supporting visual documentation is unavailable. Based on available sources, cemetery conditions are categorized as follows:

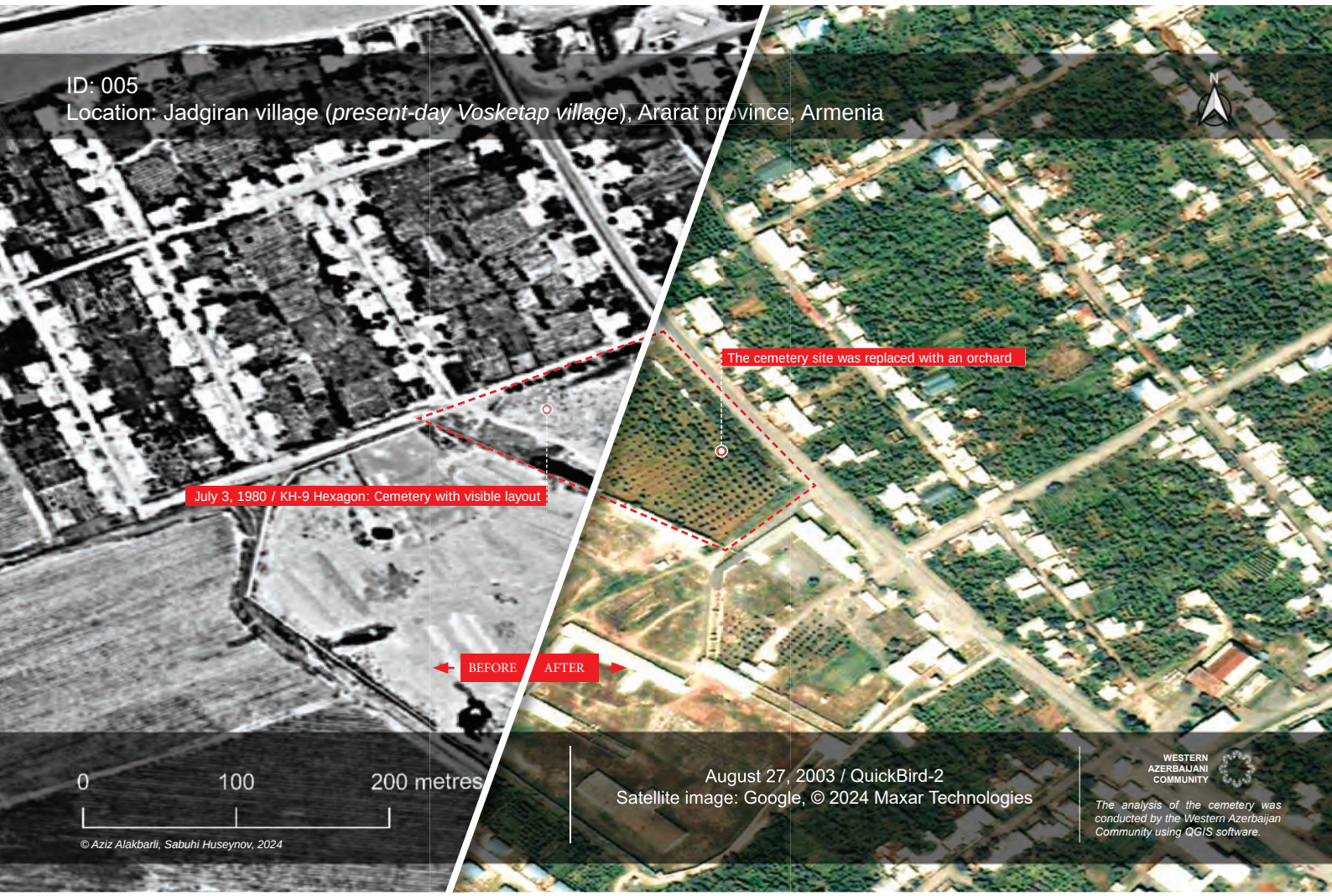
Unassessed: Sites where available satellite imagery provides insufficient data for assessment of their condition.

Undisturbed: Cemeteries maintaining substantially unchanged conditions since the late Soviet period.

Destroyed: Cemeteries that have undergone significant changes since the late Soviet period, characterized by large-scale displacement or reorientation of tombstones and visible structural or technical modifications to graves. This assessment relies on a comparative analysis between late Soviet-era and post-destruction high-resolution satellite imagery.

Obliterated: Cemeteries where high-resolution satellite imagery indicates complete erasure of their original function through land-use conversion, such as land plowing, agricultural development (grain fields, orchards), terracing, grazing, greenhouse installation, road building, industrial development, earthmoving, or artificial lake creation. Additionally, cemeteries where all tombstones have been looted to the extent that none remain are also classified as obliterated. Analysis of Soviet-era satellite imagery confirms

Satellite Fleet of MAXAR Technologies


ID: 005
Location: Jadgiran village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
The cemetery site was replaced with an orchard
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon: Cemetery with visible layout
BEFORE
AFTER
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

significant structural alterations in these areas.

One of the most important objectives in this study is to establish the exact timeframe of destruction or obliteration. Specifically, the earliest high-resolution satellite imagery used to assess damage to cemeteries is primarily available from 2003 onward, with some partial coverage available from 1999–2001. For sites obliterated before 1999–2003, earlier imagery from open sources or commercial satellite archives is either unavailable or classified.

In cases where cemeteries were obliterated before the availability of satellite imagery, three main techniques were employed to determine and narrow down the timeframe of obliteration:

Spectral Analysis of Landsat 5 Satellite Imagery: A time-series analysis of the area was conducted using the NDVI values from the Landsat 5 satellite, available since 1984. NDVI calculations utilized the satellite's 3rd and 4th spectral bands, analyzing the period leading up to the first high-resolution satellite imagery (1999–2003).

The analysis primarily focused on spring and summer imagery, when vegetation is at its peak growth and NDVI changes are most pronounced. This period offers optimal analytical conditions due to minimal seasonal interference (such as snow cover or soil moisture, A.A., S.H.).

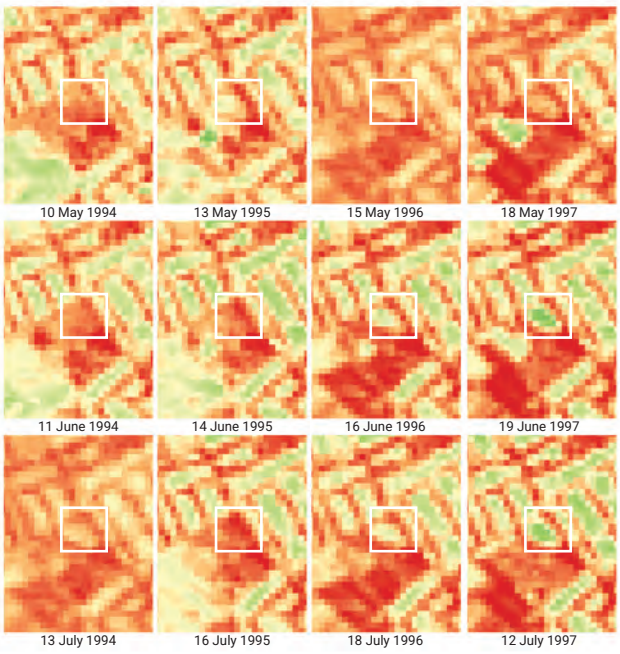
The 30-meter spatial resolution of the Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) sensor was effective in estimating the timeframe of large cemetery erasures. However, this approach was limited to extensive sites due to resolution constraints for smaller cemeteries.

Analysis of High-Resolution Satellite Imagery: For smaller cemeteries, high-resolution modern satellite imagery was employed to determine destruction timeframes. In analyzing the initial recorded instances of destruction, changes in soil and vegetation cover were examined. For example, the color and structural characteristics of freshly disturbed soil and the impact of these disturbances on vegetation cover were assessed through visual analysis. Visual analysis of vegetation regrowth patterns following surface disturbances helped further pinpoint the timeframe of destruction and obliteration.

Analysis of Photographic and Video Materials: When satellite imagery and spectral analysis proved insufficient, archival photographic and video materials were utilized. This method was particularly effective in identifying destruction events from earlier periods. Observed damage in photographic and video records was used to further narrow down the dates of destruction.

The integration of these methods enhanced the accuracy of both spatial and temporal destruction parameters. The EAMENA methodology served as the primary framework for this analysis, with an adapted approach developed to suit the region. Within this framework, impacts and their causes were classified, and the extent of damage was calculated in percentages. Existing and potential threats were also assessed and categorized, allowing for the prediction of future erasure patterns.

Thus, the timeframe of cemetery obliteration across extensive areas was established using Landsat 5 satellite data, while modern high-resolution satellite imagery and supplementary archival materials were employed for smaller cemeteries. Throughout this process, vegetation indices within cemetery areas were also examined. NDVI analysis, as outlined earlier, was used to compare vegetation values from pre-destruction and post-destruction satellite imagery.



	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
May	0,13	0,18	0,14	0,22	0,28	0,35	0,55	0,54	0,61	0,79	0,79
June	0,17	0,16	0,16	0,19	0,23	0,25	0,27	0,65	0,62	0,79	0,79
July	0,18	0,16	0,16	0,18	0,19	0,26	0,21	0,56	0,76	0,8	0,79

Jadgiran Cemetery (Vedi district)

The analysis of NDVI values from 1995–1997 indicates changes in vegetation cover and shows that the area began to be used intensively for agricultural purposes, specifically as an orchard.

For more details on the analysis, see ID:005

7. OVERALL FINDINGS:

Data Systematization and Analysis

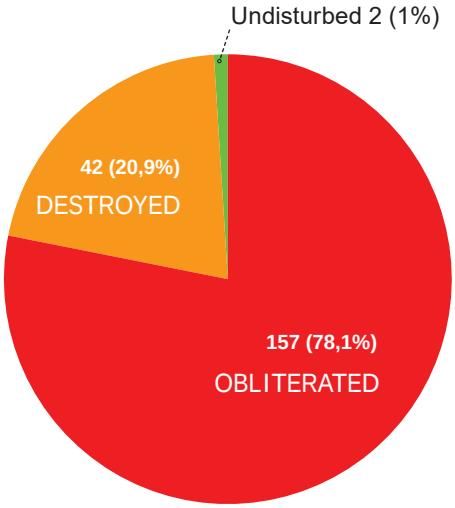


CHART 1:

The overall condition of cemeteries

This study used satellite imagery to examine and monitor 201 Azerbaijani cemeteries—sites representing Azerbaijan's tangible cultural heritage—located within the territory of the Republic of Armenia. The analysis primarily focused on cemeteries active until 1987.

Satellite monitoring revealed that 157 cemeteries (78.1%) were obliterated, while 42 cemeteries (20.9%) suffered severe destruction, vandalism, and looting.

Using satellite data, the timeframe of obliteration was established for 154 cemeteries. For 10 cemeteries, the obliteration timeframe was determined through the analysis of KH-7 Gambit and KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery, revealing that the obliteration occurred during the late Soviet period, specifically between 1967 and 1989.

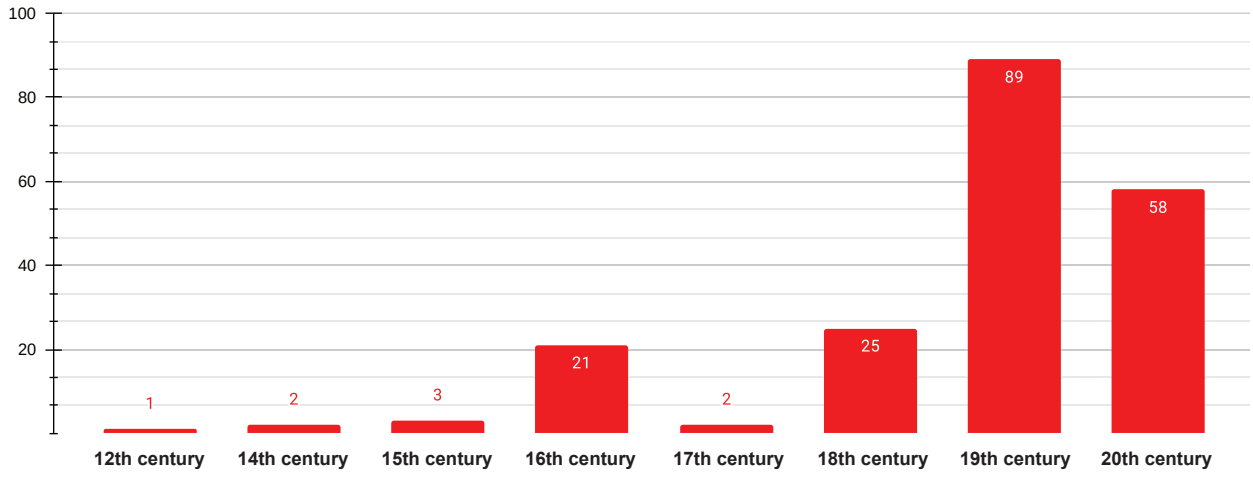


CHART 2: *Establishment dates of 201 cemeteries (by century)*

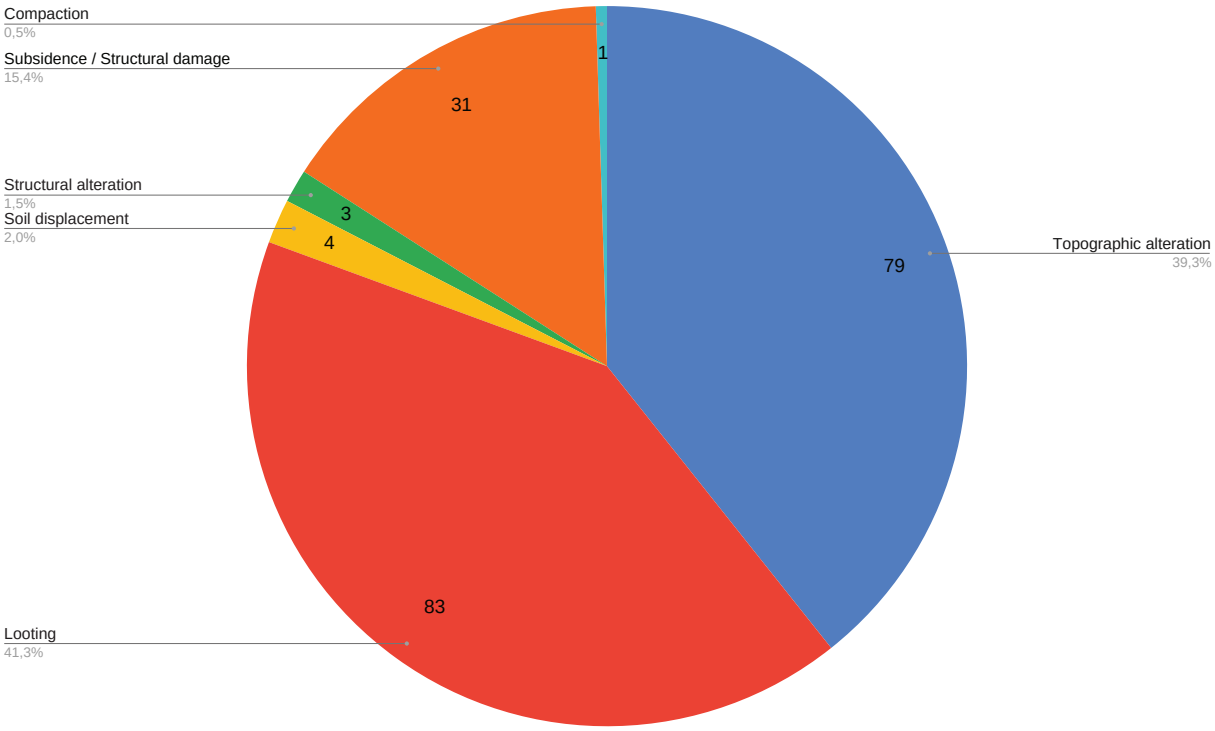


CHART 3: *The types of destruction impact in damaged cemeteries*

For 89 cemeteries, due to the lack of accessible modern satellite imagery capturing both pre- and post-destruction conditions, the earliest recorded instance of obliteration after 1989 was used as the reference timeframe.

Although the complete obliteration of three cemeteries was confirmed, their exact timeframe could not be determined, so they were therefore recorded as “unassessed.”

For 33 cemeteries, since modern satellite imagery allowed for the observation of both their pre- and post-destruction conditions, their obliteration timeframe was estimated.

For 22 cemeteries, the obliteration timeframe was determined using Landsat 5 multispectral imagery (NDVI values), analysis of soil and vegetation changes during the first recorded instances of destruction, and photographic and video evidence (For more details, see Chart 4).

The research identified severe destruction in 42 cemeteries.

Notably, cemeteries that were ultimately obliterated had initially suffered such severe destruction before being completely erased. Analysis of photographic and video evidence from these 42 cemeteries indicates that headstones and grave slabs made of marble and other valuable materials were systematically collected and repurposed for profit.

These activities, repeatedly documented in Armenian media, were conducted by organized groups that traveled from village to village, committing these crimes in plain sight of state authorities, even with their support. The remaining tombstones, deemed less valuable, were subjected to vandalism—broken apart, their inscriptions and carvings erased, and reduced to scattered piles of rubble over time. This is further corroborated by most of the analyzed satellite imagery. Additionally, since iron fences were commonly used around Azerbaijani graves during the Soviet period, grave looters systematically collected them.

As a result, of the 201 examined cemeteries, only two remain undisturbed: the cemetery in *Jujakend*, located in Lori province (formerly Kalinino district of the Armenian SSR), and the relatively undisturbed cemetery in *Garanamaz* village, Shirak province (formerly Amasiya district of the Armenian SSR).[1]

Temporal analysis of cemetery damage indicates that most obliteration in the study area occurred after 2006.

The impact of destruction across the 201 cemeteries was assessed under various classifications. Analyses revealed looting in 83 cemeteries, representing a significant proportion. Furthermore, topographic alterations—changes to the natural relief or terrain—were identified in 79 cemeteries, substantially impacting the landscape structure of these burial grounds.

Structural damage was recorded in 31 cemeteries, manifesting as physical deterioration of graves and other memorial elements. Soil displacement, involving relocation or repurposing, was identified in four cases. Structural modifications, indicating complete reconstruction or transformation of existing structures, were recorded in three cemeteries. In one instance, compaction effects were observed, where soil compaction impacted the structural integrity of graves.

These findings demonstrate that cemeteries have primarily been affected by anthropogenic impacts, with natural factors playing a lesser role.

The study also analyzed how the Republic of Armenia repurposed the territories of destroyed and completely obliterated cemeteries. Following obliteration, 42% of the cemetery land was converted for agricultural use.

The second most common form of repurposing was for public use, including the establishment of new Armenian cemeteries on the sites of obliterated Azerbaijani ones. Satellite monitoring has revealed multiple instances of such replacement.

Furthermore, this process is still ongoing in several previously damaged cemeteries. This pattern has been observed in the cemeteries of Sarvanlar village in Ararat province (formerly Zangibasar district of the Armenian SSR), Lambali village in Tavush province (formerly Barana district of the Armenian SSR), Vorontsovka settlement and Evli village in Lori province (formerly Kalinino district of the Armenian SSR). This ongoing phenomenon can also be tracked through satellite imagery, raising concerns that other obliterated cemeteries may face the same fate if left unchecked.[2]

The concept of public use includes not only the establishment of new Armenian cemeteries in these areas but also the construction of public buildings, schools, parks, and other infrastructure projects. The research indicates that 24.5% of the analyzed cemeteries have been repurposed for such public uses.

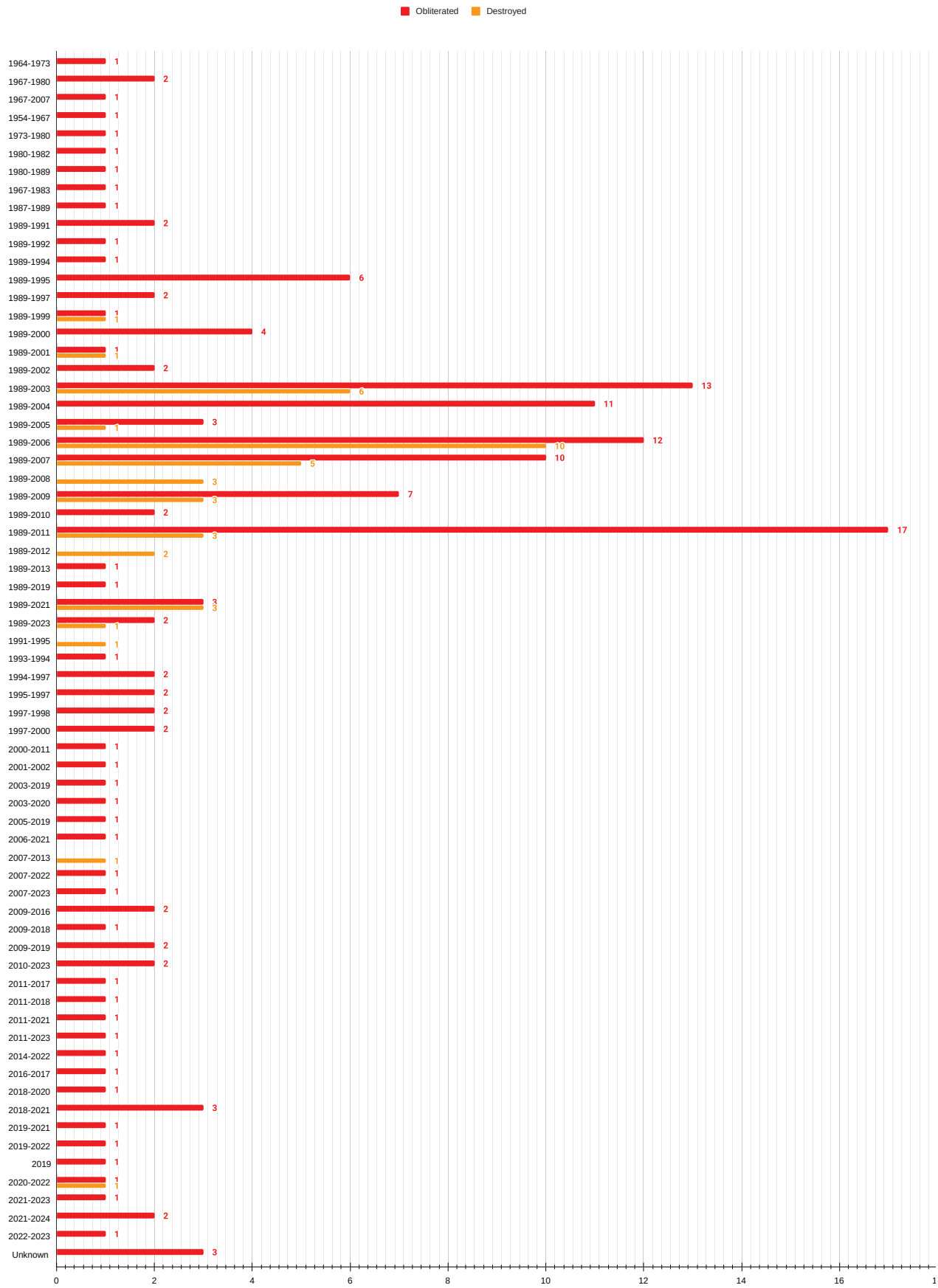
Among the examined cemeteries, 29 sites (14.6% of those analyzed) were repurposed for residential use following their obliteration or destruction, including conversion to household yards, gardens, and vegetable plots.

Additionally, 18 cemeteries were obliterated by the Armenian state, with their lands repurposed for transportation and telecommunications infrastructure. This process involved the construction of new roads, the installation of transmission towers, and the laying of high-

1. For more details, see: ID:133; ID:155

2. For more details, see: ID:009, ID: 159, ID:146, ID:184

CHART 4: *Timeframe of destroyed and obliterated cemeteries*



voltage power lines, among other developments. This method of obliteration was identified in 18 cemeteries, constituting 9% of the total examined.

Following the obliteration of several cemeteries analyzed in this study, their lands were repurposed for industrial use, allocated for large-scale, state-invested industrial facilities. This occurred in 4.5% of the cemeteries.

Furthermore, the study identified cases that constitute war crimes under international conventions, specifically the use of Azerbaijani cemeteries for military purposes by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. Such cases were observed in the cemeteries of Sariyagub and Dashkend villages in Gegharkunik province (formerly Basarkechar district of the Armenian SSR) and Yukhari Akhtala village in Lori province (formerly Allahverdi district of the Armenian SSR).[3]

Following the victorious conclusion of the 44-Day War, which Azerbaijan fought to restore its territorial integrity in Karabakh, specific units of the retreating Armenian army caused significant damage to the Sariyagub and Dashkend cemeteries. Specifically, bulldozers were used in cemeteries to excavate military fortifications and trenches for tanks and artillery installations.

In three of the examined cemeteries, an ongoing process of covering the cemetery grounds has been documented. These cemeteries include those of Ranjbar village, Sarvanlar village (part of Zangibasar district), and Shidli village (part of Vedi district). Ongoing examination of these cases has enabled a more precise understanding of obliteration methods used at other cemetery sites.

High-resolution satellite imagery has also captured several previous instances of cemetery obliteration, serving as direct evidence of these crimes. One such instance was documented by the WorldView-02 satellite on September 21, 2019, when six bulldozers and heavy-duty trucks were observed actively obliterating the Satanaghaj village cemetery for road construction.

Similarly, the WorldView-03 satellite captured evidence of the burning of a section of the Vorontsovka settlement cemetery belonging to Azerbaijani and other minority communities in Lori province (formerly Kalinino district of the Armenian SSR) on November 17, 2019.

The study has also examined the scope of obliteration in relation to both the former administrative division of the Armenian SSR and the current administrative division of the Republic of Armenia.

The analyses reveal that Azerbaijani cemeteries have been most extensively obliterated in the districts of Gafan and Basarkechar, which, in the current administrative division of the Republic of Armenia, correspond to the territories of Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces.

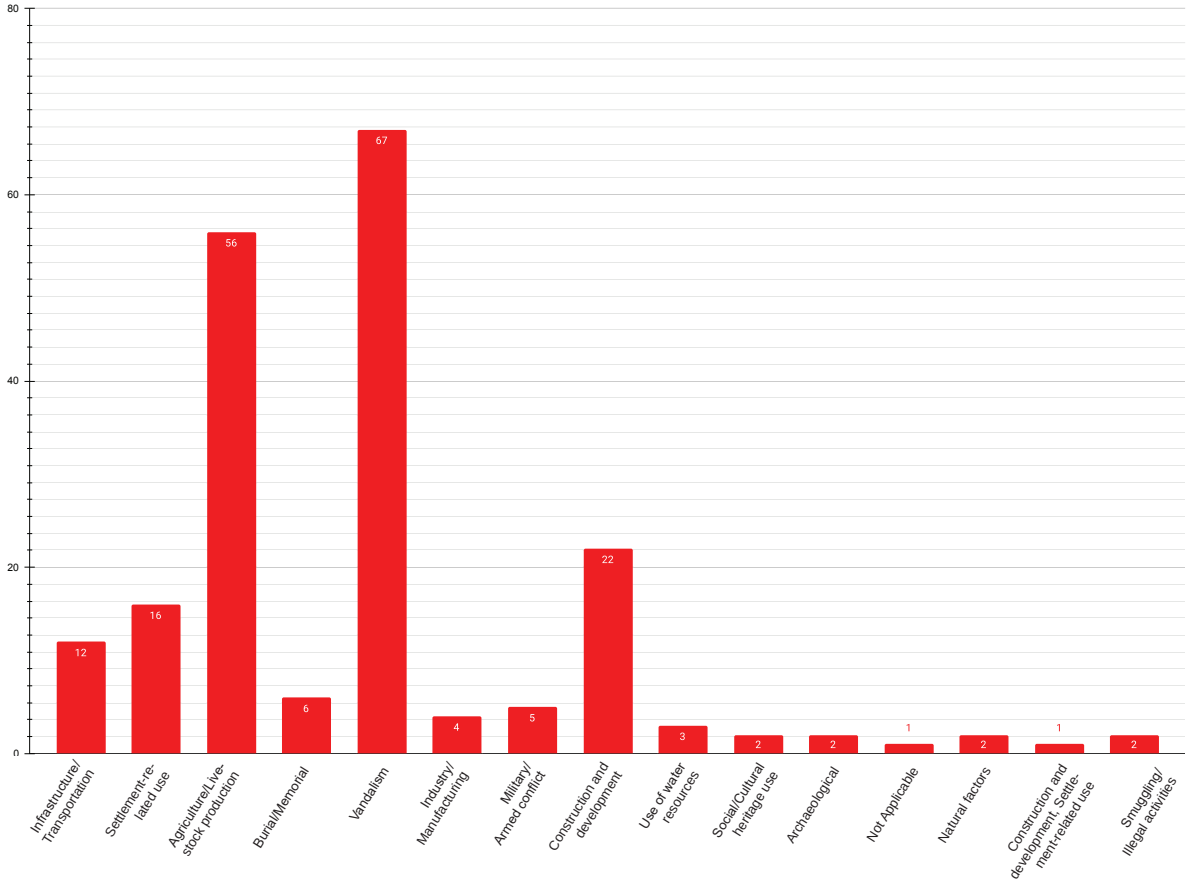
The findings indicate that the obliteration of Azerbaijani cemeteries, which form part of Azerbaijan's cultural heritage within the Republic of Armenia, has been deliberate and systematic.

The systematic destruction of Azerbaijani cemeteries intensified significantly after 1989. Prior to 1987, most of these cemeteries were actively used and maintained. However, the widespread destruction that began in 1989 intensified further after 2006. Satellite imagery and supplementary research demonstrate that during this period, cemetery lands were repurposed for agricultural activities and infrastructure development, leading to significant landscape alterations.

The eradication of cemeteries was not limited to physical demolition but also stemmed

3. For more details, see: ID:038, ID:016, ID:126.

CHART 5: *Categories of causes of destruction in cemeteries*



from a policy aimed at erasing cultural and religious heritage. These acts of destruction were carried out during both the Soviet period and the modern era, driven by various factors. The severe destruction of 42 cemeteries, with most demolitions linked to vandalism, looting, and pillaging, indicates a deliberate effort to erase the religious and cultural identity of the local population. Photographic and video evidence reveals that marble stones and valuable headstones were particularly collected and repurposed for reuse.

A critical aspect of this study is establishing the timeline of cemetery obliteration through satellite imagery. This methodological approach has uncovered previously undocumented instances of obliteration. The cemetery obliteration processes that took place between 1967 and 1989, during the late Soviet period, reflect the political and social atmosphere of that era. Meanwhile, modern satellite imagery has extensively documented the erasure of cemeteries after 1989. In this context, modern satellite technologies play a vital role in precisely determining the timeline of obliteration and alterations.

Following the obliteration of cemeteries in Armenia, these areas were predominantly repurposed. Their conversion into agricultural land, the establishment of new Armenian cemeteries, and the construction of public buildings highlight the strategic significance of these sites. Additionally, the construction of new roads and transportation infrastructure over former cemetery grounds, along with their use for military purposes, reflects a systematic policy of cultural heritage erasure pursued by the Armenian state.

This study demonstrates that the destruction of Azerbaijani cultural heritage within the Republic of Armenia is not an isolated case of cultural erasure but rather the result of a large-scale state policy aimed at eliminating the his-

FIGURE 1:

Gradual destruction of the Azerbaijani cemetery in Evli village, Kalinino district, followed by the establishment of new Armenian graves.

Satellite image: *Google, © 2024 Airbus, September 6, 2024.*

FIGURE 2:

Burning of the area containing Azerbaijani graves in the cemetery of Vorontsovka settlement, Kalinino district.

Satellite image: *Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies, November 17, 2019.*

torical and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people. Modern satellite technologies have further documented this policy. This issue raises significant concerns from the perspective of international law and human rights, necessitating appropriate interventions.

Thus, the documentation of the obliteration of Azerbaijani cemeteries within the territory of the Republic of Armenia reveals that Armenia has pursued a deliberate state policy against this critical component of Azerbaijani cultural heritage for many years—a policy that remains ongoing.

The absence of systematic monitoring of Azerbaijani cultural heritage in Armenia, coupled with the lack of comprehensive cataloguing of the destroyed heritage, has further accelerated this process of obliteration.

SHIDLI VILLAGE, VEDI DISTRICT.

Photograph of the covered cemetery site. 2024

8. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

International Legal Responsibility of Armenia for the Destruction of Cemeteries

The irrefutable evidence and findings presented confirm that the Armenian state has systematically destroyed cemeteries—an integral part of Azerbaijani tangible cultural heritage—an act that entails serious international legal consequences.

The destruction of cemeteries constitutes a fundamental human rights violation. ***The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)***, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 1966, through Resolution 2200A (XXI), has been ratified by 167 countries as of May 2012, including Armenia.

Article 18 of the Covenant states: "*Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.*"[1]

Under the principles of international law, Article 18 establishes communities' rights to conduct religious and burial ceremonies in their cemeteries.

But how does the destruction of cemeteries relate to this legal provision? The issue lies in the fact that the amended International Religious Freedom Act refers to the desecration of cemeteries as a violation of religious freedom.

Additionally, the Human Rights Council Resolution 6/37, "***Elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,***" affirms the right of individuals and religious communities to bury their deceased in their cemeteries, and obligates states to respect and protect cemeteries from desecration or destruction.[2]

Cemeteries are also protected under international law as part of the tangible and cultural heritage of the communities they belong to. UNESCO serves as the primary coordinating body within the system of international mechanisms for cultural heritage protection when such sites face destruction. As the first international organization to recognize the significance of cultural heritage and advance its

1.United Nations, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (New York: United Nations, 1966).
2.United Nations Human Rights Council, *Resolution 6/37*: *Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief* (Geneva: United Nations Human Rights Council, 2007).

Adoption of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in room 1, UNESCO, Paris France
© UNESCO

preservation, UNESCO has established seven cultural heritage conventions. ***The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*** represents UNESCO's first major international treaty recognizing the importance of cultural heritage protection and obligating signatories to implement necessary protective measures.[3]

Adopted in 1972, this convention emphasizes the obligations of state parties regarding cultural heritage within their territories, stipulating that protection responsibilities extend to all heritage regardless of community or group association.

Through ratification, the Republic of Armenia assumed obligations to protect all tangible cultural heritage within its territory, including Azerbaijani cemeteries and other cultural sites, irrespective of ethnic attribution.

Another key UNESCO document, adopted in 2003, is the Declaration Concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage. Article 6 of the Declaration states: "A *State that intentionally destroys or intentionally fails to take appropriate measures to prohibit, prevent, stop, and punish any intentional destruction of cultural heritage of great importance for humanity, whether or not it is inscribed on a list maintained by UNESCO or another international organization, bears the responsibility for such destruction, to the extent provided for by international law*".[4]

These UNESCO instruments establish that violations against tangible cultural heritage, particularly the destruction of cemeteries as significant heritage components, incur international legal responsibility.

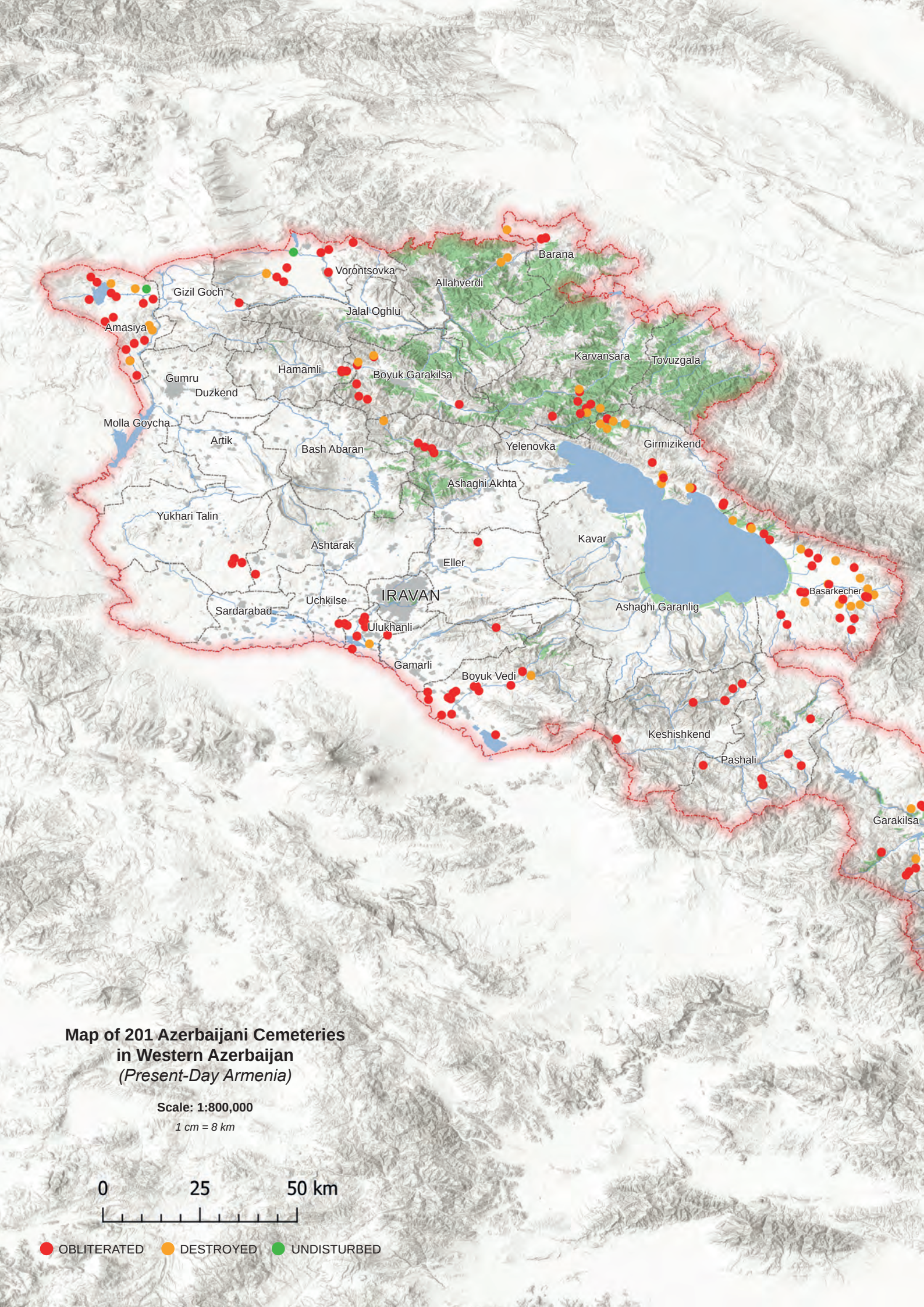
Unfortunately, the Armenian state refuses to fulfill its responsibility through various means. Research indicates that Armenia has deliberately excluded Azerbaijani tangible cultural heritage from its official register of 25,000 heritage sites. The sole reference to Azerbaijani cultural heritage—the Blue Mosque (*Göy Məscid*) in Yerevan—is registered as a "Persian mosque," effectively denying Azerbaijan's historical presence and obscuring systematic cultural heritage destruction.

Armenia's failure to fulfill its obligations under UN and UNESCO treaties to which it is party constitutes significant legal liability.

The evidence presented in this report provides grounds for Azerbaijan to pursue measures to ensure Armenia's compliance with its international legal commitments.

3. UNESCO, *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (Paris: UNESCO, 1972), available at www.unesco.org.

4. UNESCO, *Declaration on the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage* (Paris: UNESCO, 2003), available at www.unesco.org.



Map of 201 Azerbaijani Cemeteries in Western Azerbaijan
(Present-Day Armenia)

Scale: 1:800,000

1 cm = 8 km

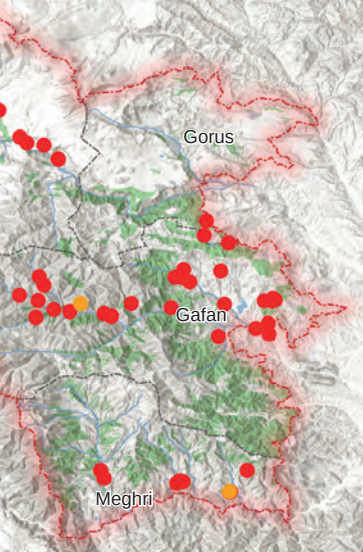
0 25 50 km

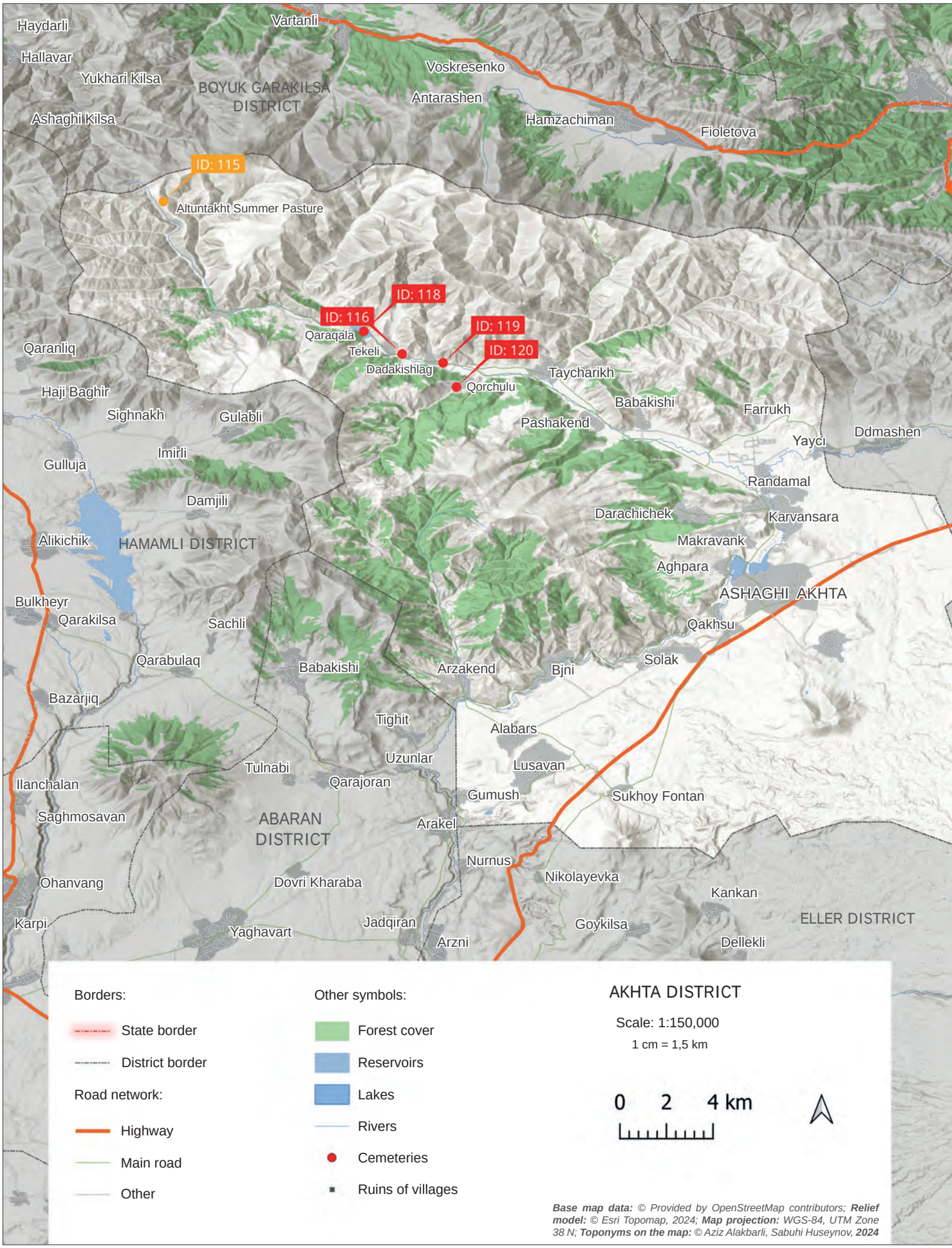
OBLITERATED DESTROYED UNDISTURBED

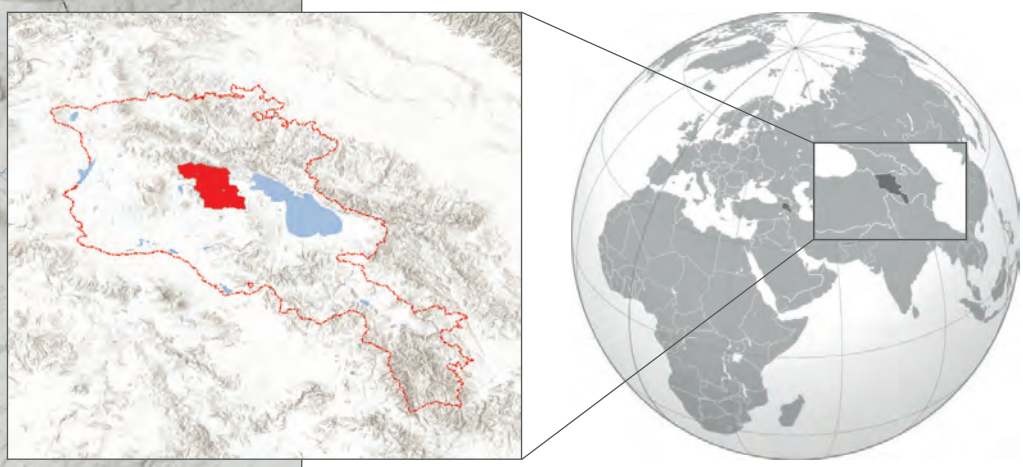
PART: II

Systematic Destruction of Azerbaijani Cemeteries in Armenia: Consequences and International Legal Responsibility

DOCUMENTATION OF REPORT




Haydarli
Vartanli
Hallavar
Yukhari Kilsa
BOYUK GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Voskresenko
Antarashen
Ashaghi Kilsa
Hamzachiman
Fioletova
ID: 115
Altuntakht Summer Pasture
ID: 118
ID: 116
Qaraqala
ID: 119
Tekeli
ID: 120
Dadakishlag
Qorchulu
Taycharikh
Qaranliq
Haji Baghir
Babakishi
Farrukh
Sighnakh
Gulabli
Pashakend
Ddmashen
Yaycı
Imirli
Gulluja
Randamal
Damjili
Darachichek
Karvansara
Alikichik
HAMAMLI DISTRICT
Makravank
Aghpara
ASHAGHI AKHTA
Bulkheyr
Qarakilsa
Sachli
Qakhsu
Qarabulaq
Babakishi
Arzakend
Bjni
Solak
Bazarjiq
Tighit
Alabars
Uzunlar
Lusavan
Tulnabi
Ilanchalan
Qarajoran
Gumush
Sukhoy Fontan
Saghmosavan
ABARAN DISTRICT
Arakel
Nurnus
Ohanvang
Dovri Kharaba
Nikolayevka
Kankan
Karpi
Jadqiran
Goykilsa
ELLER DISTRICT
Yaghavart
Arzni
Dellekli
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
AKHTA DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



AKHTA DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Derechichak *mahal**.
Administrative designation: Akhta district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 936 sq. km

The district's administrative center was the city of Ashaghi Akhta (*later renamed Hrazdan, A.A., S.H.*), which was under direct republican administration and was located 50 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1970 records, the district included one city under direct republican administration, two urban-type settlements, 11 village councils, and 18 residential settlements. The district's population (*excluding Ashaghi Akhta district, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 40,300 people.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Kotayk province, which was established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

* Beginning in the Safavid period (from the 16th century onward), the *mahal* (transliterated as *magal* in some Russian and Persian sources) functioned as a small administrative and socio-economic unit in the South Caucasus and, more broadly, acrpss parts of the Muslim East. It typically encompassed several villages and their surrounding territories, united by shared political, ethnographic, or geographical characteristics. In certain regions, mahals were further subdivided into nahiyahs (subdistricts), which in turn comprised individual villages (kend) and nomadic encampments (oba), each headed by local leaders such as beks, naibs, or kendkhudas, depending on the local administrative hierarchy.

From 1982 to 2023

Status: DESTROYED

Altuntakht Cemetery

Location: Akhta district, Miskhana village (Azerbaijani) / Kotayk province, Hankavan village (Armenian)
ID: 115 [MC-445], 40.691251, 44.455805

Altuntakht was a summer pasture and historical area abundant in fresh springs, located on the southwestern foothills of Khalkhali Mountain in the Derechichak *mahal*. It was incorporated into Akhta district on September 9, 1930, and later into Hrazdan district on June 30, 1959. Although several studies have attempted to pinpoint the Altuntakht settlement[1], the exact location of this site, mentioned in the epic "*Book of Dede Korkut*" (*Azerbaijani: Kitabi-Dädä Qorqud*), remains a matter of scholarly debate. According to the *Detailed Register of the Iravan Province ('Irävan vilayäti mufässäl tährir däftäri')*, compiled by the Ottomans in 1590, the Altuntakht summer pasture was used by Karaman Bey, one of local beys. According to the same source, this area was a dwelling place used as a summer pasture by the inhabitants of Mehmandar village in Zangibasar mahal.[2]

Historical sources first mentioned Altuntakht as a village in 1727. According to a detailed fiscal register compiled by the Ottomans, the village was inhabited by a Muslim Turkic population and paid 4,210 *akches* in taxes.[3] Following the Russian Empire's occupation of the Iravan Khanate, I. Chopin, one of the officials responsible for conducting an administrative census under the direction of General I.F. Paskevich, Viceroy of the Caucasus, identified two ruined villages—Yukhari (Upper) Altuntakht and Ashaghi (Lower) Altuntakht—when listing the villages that existed in the region in his later studies.[4] Both the detailed register and I. Chopin's data indicate that later in the 18th century, the village of Altuntakht was divided into Yukhari Altuntakht and Ashaghi Altuntakht villages. However, following the last Russo-Persian War (1826–1828), the population of both villages was forced to leave the area, and the villages subsequently fell into ruins.

A source published in 1886 states that the Altuntakht summer pasture had historically been used by the inhabitants of Shollu Mehmandar village.[5] This information corroborates the account documented in the Ottoman source.

The authors' analyses based on satellite imagery have confirmed the presence of ruins reminiscent of both villages. The epigraphic inscription of the date '1861/1862' (see Image No. 3) on a tombstone in the Altuntakht cemetery, located near those ruins, indicates that the cemetery remained in use by the population of the Shollu Mehmandar village who subsequently came to the pasture, as documented in the source.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery (at right, top) dated August 29, 1982,[6] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.41 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A subsequent satellite image dated October 15, 2023,[7] confirmed that the cemetery's layout remained unchanged as of that date. The primary factors that have contributed to the preservation of the cemetery, shielding it from anthropogenic impacts, are its remote location, significant distance from inhabited areas, and its position at the foothills of high mountains, surrounded by rugged, difficult-to-access terrain. Based on the 2023 satellite image, approximately 150 graves were identified within the cemetery. Photographs obtained from open-source repositories indicate that structural damage was the primary form of deterioration affecting the cemetery. Several tombstones were completely destroyed due to the site's use as a summer pasture for large livestock herds. Since the cemetery area lay directly on the migration route used for cattle ascending to summer pastures, livestock posed a significant threat to the tombstones, causing them to topple, break, and be crushed.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located at an elevation of 2,528 meters above sea level, within the summer pasture that shares its name. This location was marked on Soviet maps from 1926 (1:210,000 scale)[8], 1928 (1:210,000 scale)[9], 1931 (1:210,000 scale)[10], 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[11], 1933 (1:210,000 scale)[12], 1936 (1:210,000 scale)[13], 1940 (1:210,000 scale)[14], and 1941 (1:210,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 Soviet military topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery in the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and successfully determined its precise coordinates.

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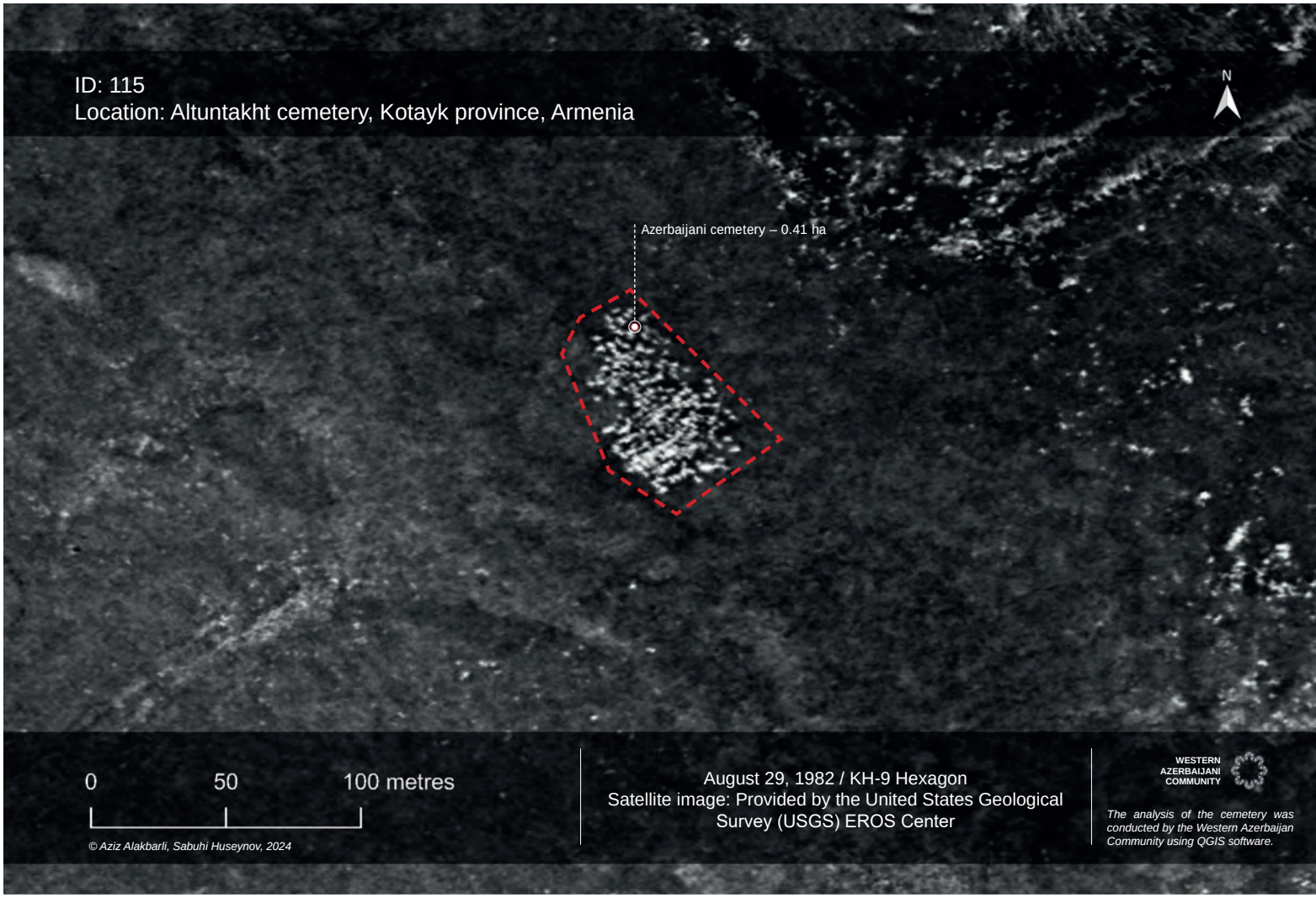
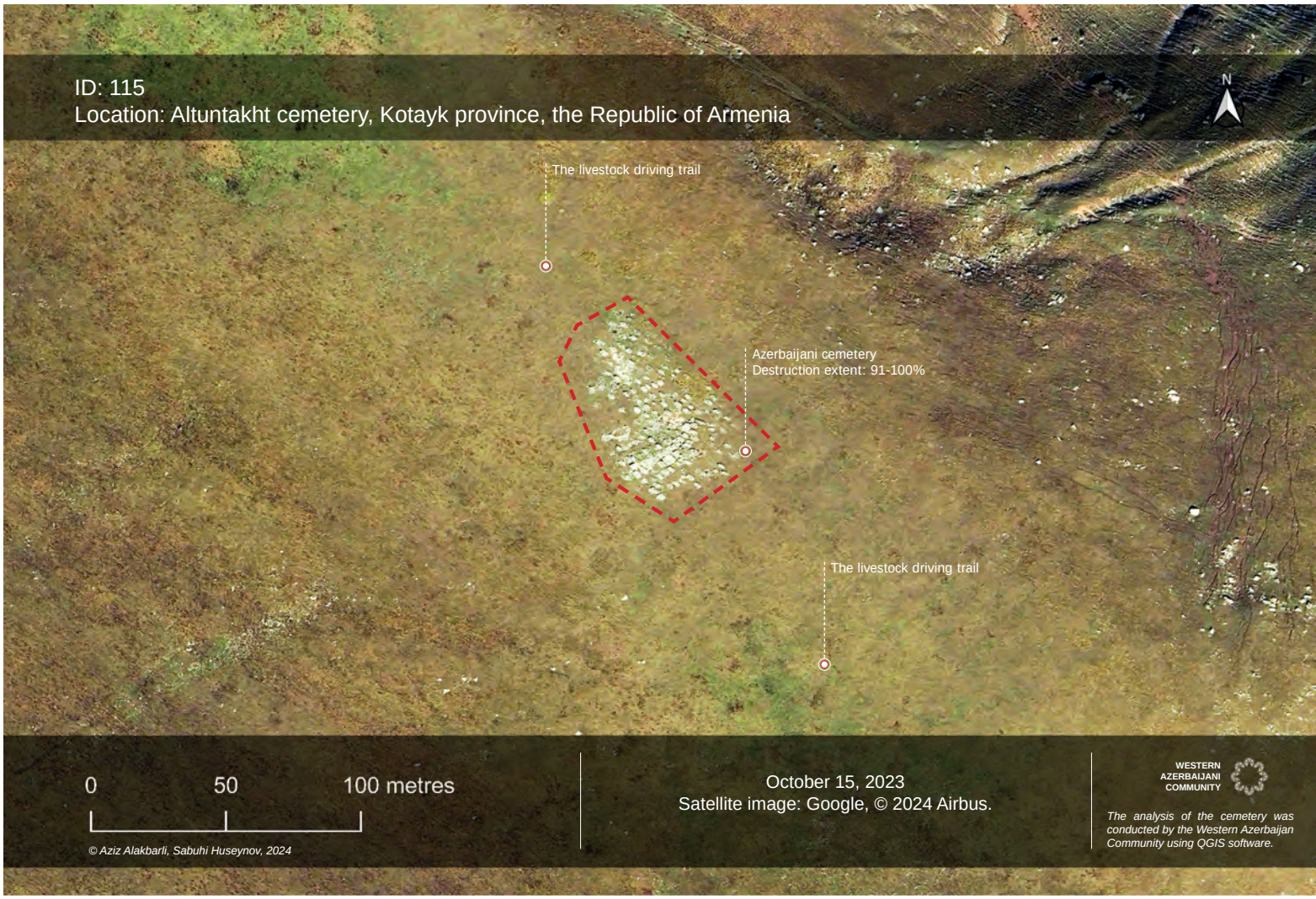
1. *Kitabi-Dädä Qorqud dastani: Transkripsiya, sadäläshdirilmish variant vä muqäddimä*, comps., Firudin Zeynalov vä Sälim Älizadä, (Baku: Yazïchï, 1988), 265.
2. *1590 Tarikhli Irävan Vilayäti Mufässäl Däftäri,* ed. Husamäddin Garamanlï; transcr. and trans. by Husamäddin Garamanlï and Mehmed Alauddin Islamoghlu (Baku: Elm, 2023), 168.
3. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 41.
4. Ivan Shopin, *Istoricheskii pamiatnik sostoianiia Armyanskoi oblasti v epokhu ee prisoedineniia k Rossiiskoi imperii* (Saint Petersburg, 1852), 516.
5. *Materialy dlia izucheniia ekonomicheskogo byta gosudarstvennykh krest'ian Zakavkazskogo* kraia, vol. 3 (Tiflis: Tipografiia A. A. Mikhel'sona i Kantseliariia glavnonachal'stvuiushchego grazhdanskoi chast'iu na Kavkaze, 1886), 63.
6. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011,* 29 avqust 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
7. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
8. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
9. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1928.
10. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1931.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-33 (*Vartanlu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
12. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, E.8 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1933.
13. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, E.8 (*Erivan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1936.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab RKKA, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1940.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoĭ Armii, E.8 (Yerevan) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.

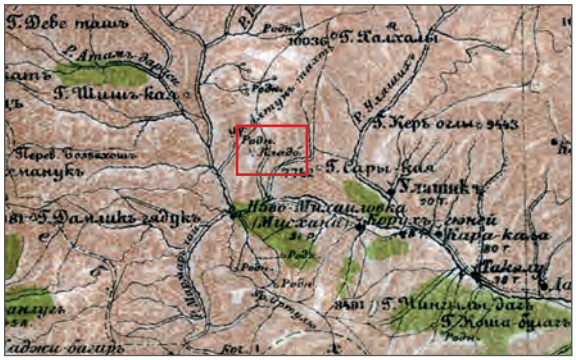

ID: 115
Location: Altuntakht cemetery, Kotayk province, Armenia
N
Azerbaijani cemetery – 0.41 ha
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 115
Location: Altuntakht cemetery, Kotayk province, the Republic of Armenia
N
The livestock driving trail
Azerbaijani cemetery
Destruction extent: 91-100%
The livestock driving trail
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

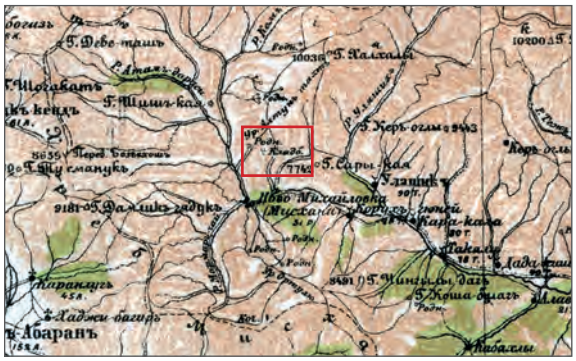
1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1928

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1928 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1933

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1936

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1936 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1940

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1941

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

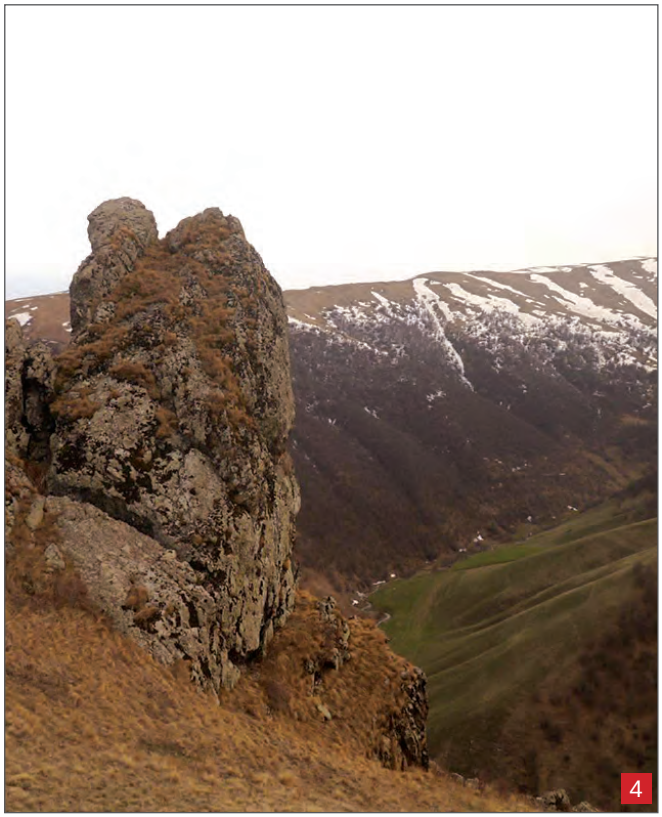
3

Transcription:

*'El-merḥūme el-maġfūrete **Ḥanīfe bint-i Suleymān Nūrī Aġlamī**, ġafara'Llāhu lehumā, fī sene 1278.[1861/1862]'.*

Translation:

*The mercifully deceased, the forgiven **Hanife, daughter of Suleyman Nuri Aglami**. May God forgive them both, in the year 1278 [1861/1862].*



4

5

© Wikiloc, Danidomingovitx, April, 2014

6

7

8

9

10

© Wikiloc, Danidomingovitx, April, 2014

From 1989 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Dedegishlag Village Cemetery

Location: Akhta district, Dedegishlag village (Azerbaijani) / Kotayk province, Pyunik village (Armenian)
ID: 119 [MC-096], 40.609888, 44.596940

Dedegishlag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Derechichak *mahal*, located in the Miskhana valley near the river of the same name. It was incorporated into Akhta district on September 9, 1930, and later into Hrazdan district on June 30, 1959. The village was also known as Gaygojali. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 541 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

In June 1918, the residents of Dedegishlag were forced to abandon the village as a result of an Armenian assault.[2] In 1921, 186 Azerbaijanis returned, rebuilt the village, and resettled.[3] On May 4, 1939, by the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, the village was renamed Akhundov.[4] In 1950, 412 residents of the village were deported to the Salyan district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and a policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On December 4, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Dedegishlag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Dedegishlag village was renamed Pyunik.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery (at right, top) dated August 29, 1982,[7] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.94 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. Although roads and buildings were present in the vicinity, no encroachment on the cemetery grounds occurred, as the residents protected it.

A comparative analysis was conducted using the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and Ikonos imagery dated April 1, 2000[8] (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis indicates that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2000.

A large portion of the tombstones previously visible in the Hexagon imagery had been removed, and the surface was levelled using a grader, with the area incorporated into the yard of a residential property to the west. Additionally, the analysis revealed that in the northern and eastern parts of the cemetery, the land had been covered by bulldozers, and a new road was constructed. The presence of newly built residential houses and dirt roads, along with disrupted vegetation along their edges, indicated that the land clearing occurred relatively close to the date when the satellite image was captured.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2000 (Ikonos) and 2016[9] (GeoEye-1) revealed only a small number of shattered tombstones remaining from the destruction process within the cemetery.

Analysis of the October 30, 2023[10] satellite image (Airbus) identified 32 tombstones in the area. The rest of the area had been obliterated.

The analysis reveals that following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village, the cemetery was subjected to severe destruction, and the land was repurposed. This resulted in the deliberate partial obliteration of the cemetery. All these processes demonstrate the intentional erasure of Azerbaijani cultural heritage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located east of Dedegishlag village, on the right side of the road leading to Gorchulu village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. Fäth Äli Khan Khoyski to Mähämmäd Ämin Räsulzadä, on possible resolutions of territorial disputes with Armenians and the urgent need for measures to supply Azerbaijan with banknotes, 1918, autograph letter, signed, ARPIIISSA, f. 277, op. 2, d. 7, ll.37–38.
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4. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi väsakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 97.
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6. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 30.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011,* 29 avqust 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *Ikonos*, April 01, 2000, GeoEye via Esri Map.
9. *GeoEye-1*, May 23, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. October 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
11. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126-A (*Tsakhkadzor*) [map], scale 1:50,000,1974.
12. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126 (*Sevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 119
Location: Dedegishlag village (*present-day Pyunik village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 119
Location: Dedegishlag village (*present-day Pyunik village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
New construction
New construction
New construction
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 1, 2000 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

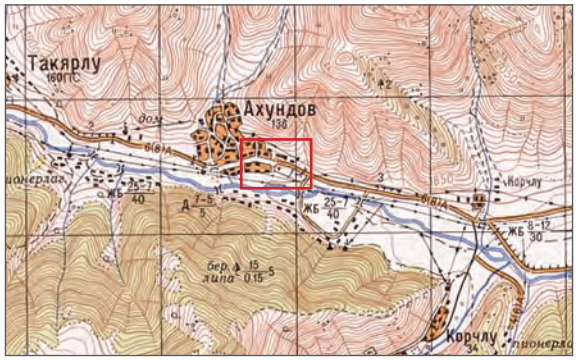
ID: 119
Location: Dedegishlag village (*present-day Pyunik village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
Used area
Destroyed tombstones
Pile of stone debris
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 23, 2016 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 119
Location: Dedegishlag village (*present-day Pyunik village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
Azerbaijani cemetery
Destruction extent: 91-100%
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 30, 2020
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE AREA:

From 2000 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Garagala Village Cemetery

Location: Akhta district, Garagala village (Azerbaijani) / Kotayk province, Garagala village (Armenian)
ID: 118 [MC-372], 40.625763, 44.556937

Garagala was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Derechichak *mahal* located in the Miskhana valley, on the left bank of the river of the same name, at the foot of Maymag Mountain. It was incorporated into Akhta district on September 9, 1930, and later into Hrazdan district on June 30, 1959. The village was first mentioned by historical sources in the early 18th century.[1] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 413 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

In June 1918, the residents of Garagala were forced to abandon the village as a result of an Armenian assault.[3] In 1921, 83 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[4] However, this process did not last long. In 1950, 207 residents of the village were deported to Ukrainskaya Otruba village (*now Abil village, A.A., S.H.*) of the Saatli district of Azerbaijan SSR.[5] After this, Garagala was administratively dissolved by the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Armenian SSR dated October 25, 1950, and from that point on, it was used as a winter pasture. Shortly after, the territory of the village was cleared for the construction of a water reservoir. As a result, the village cemetery with more than 300 years of history, including the grave of Ashiq Ali of Derechichak, a local master of the Azerbaijani ashiq musical-poetic tradition, was obliterated. Considering that Ashiq Ali was buried in the cemetery in 1953, it is presumed that this process occurred later.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[6] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Analysis confirmed earthmoving activities in the area where the cemetery was located. Destruction of the cemetery began around this time due to the construction of the Marmarik water reservoir.

The cemetery was visible in the Ikonos satellite imagery dated April 1, 2000[7]. Construction of the reservoir on the Miskhana river began in 1974 but was halted in 1976 due to the collapse of the dam's bottom slab a few days before the planned filling, which caused nearly 500,000 cubic meters of soil to slide into the lower basin. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenia resumed construction of the reservoir, completing it in 2011, when the reservoir was filled with water.[8] The WorldView-2 satellite imagery dated 2016 shows that the cemetery had been completely submerged by the reservoir water.[9]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the Garagala winter pasture, 100 meters north of the Miskhana river. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[10] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. Fäth Äli Khan Khoyski to Mähämmäd Ämin Räsulzadä, on possible resolutions of territorial disputes with Armenians and the urgent need for measures to supply Azerbaijan with banknotes, 1918, autograph letter, signed, ARPIIISSA, f. 277, op. 2, d. 7, ll.37–38.
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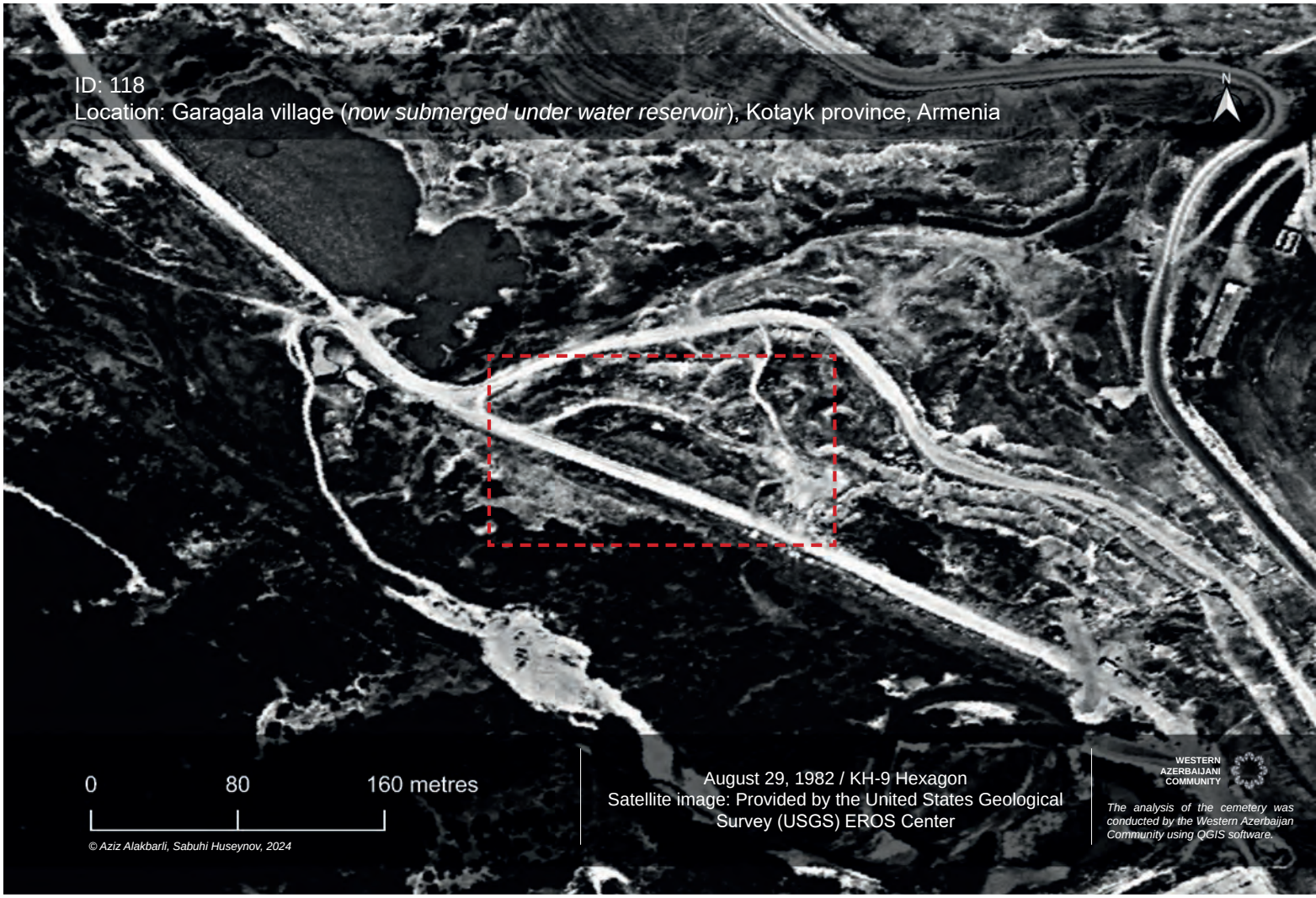
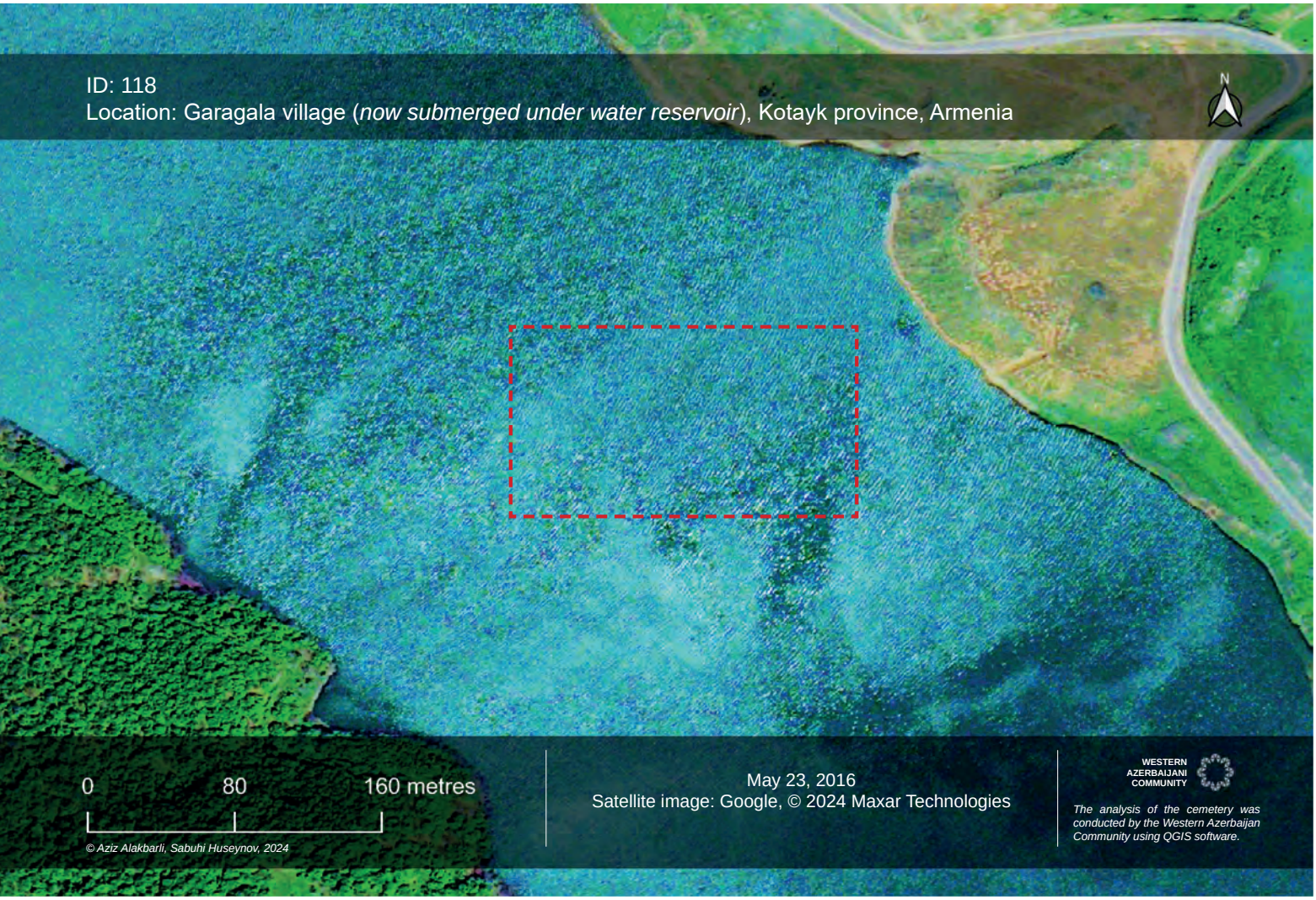
6. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, 29 avqust 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
7. *Ikonos*, 1 aprel 2000. Maxar via Google Earth.
8. President of the Republic of Armenia, "President Inspects Restoration Works at Marmarik Reservoir," May 2, 2012, URL: http://www.hhk.am/hy/news/item/2012/05/02/marmarik/ (in Armenian).
9. *WorldView-2*, May 23, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126-A (*Tsakhkadzor*) [map], scale 1:50,000,1974.
11. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126 (*Sevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 118
Location: Garagala village (*now submerged under water reservoir*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

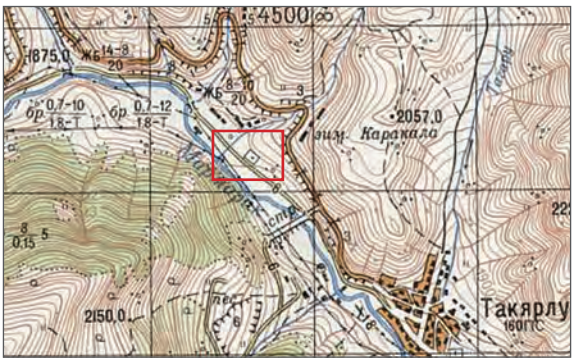
ID: 118
Location: Garagala village (*now submerged under water reservoir*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 1, 2000 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 118
Location: Garagala village (*now submerged under water reservoir*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 23, 2016
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT CONDITION
OF THE AREA:

1

© Ani Rresort, 2017

2

3

4

© Wikipedia: Garvik, 2020

From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Gorchulu Village Cemetery

Location: Akhta district, Gorchulu village (Azerbaijani) / Kotayk province, Gorgoch village (Armenian)
ID: 120 [MC-371], 40.597653, 44.603694

Gorchulu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Derechichak *mahal* located in the Miskhana valley, on both banks of the Boyukchay river at its confluence with the right tributary of the Miskhana river. It was incorporated into Akhta district on September 9, 1930, and later into Hrazdan district on June 30, 1959. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 440 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

In June 1918, the residents of Gorchulu were forced to abandon the village as a result of an Armenian attack.[2] The survivors of the massacre in Gorchulu village fled as refugees to the territories of the present-day Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1922, 142 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[3] In 1949, 354 residents of the village were deported to Korpukend village of the Zardab district, Azerbaijan SSR.[4]

In the late 1980s, as a result of Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gorchulu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Gorchulu village was renamed Gorgoch.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.91 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

After the events of 1988, the only available source for assessing the cemetery's condition was the 2016 satellite image. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 and May 23, 2016,[8] showed that significant destruction had occurred in the cemetery by this period. The intensive vegetation growth suggests that the destruction occurred years before, likely between 1989 and 1995.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2016 and October 8, 2018,[9] confirmed the cemetery obliteration. The satellite imagery dated 2018 shows that the tombstones had been removed, the area was covered with soil, and the land was levelled with a grader. Following this obliteration, ruins of approximately five tombstones were identified on the western side of the cemetery, near the mountain. In the central part of the site, an area was observed where stone fragments from the destroyed cemetery had been piled.

Thus, by 2016, large-scale destruction had taken place. By 2018, the tombstones had been removed, the site was covered with soil, and the land was levelled. The satellite imagery dated October 30, 2023,[10] shows that in the central part of the site, the piling of stone fragments after the destruction reflected the extent of the large-scale obliteration of the cemetery.

The comparative analysis conducted by the authors provided evidence of the deliberate obliteration of the cemetery and the erasure of historical heritage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located west of Gorchulu village, 20-25 meters north of the road, at an elevation of 1,840 meters above sea level. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the satellite imagery dated 1983 and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 100–101.
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5. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 203.
6. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 50.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A012*, 10 oktyabr 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. May 23, 2016. Maxar via Google Earth.
9. October 08, 2018. Maxar via Google Earth.
10. October 30, 2023. Airbus via Google Earth.
11. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126-A (*Tsakhkadzor*) [map], scale 1:50,000,1974.

ID: 120
Location: Gorchulu village (*present-day Gorgoch village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 120
Location: Gorchulu village (*present-day Gorgoch village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 23, 2016
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

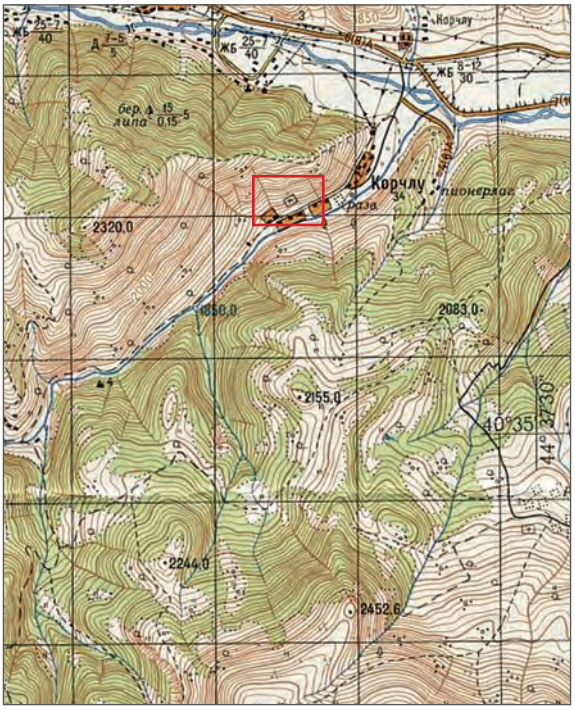
ID: 120
Location: Gorchulu village (*present-day Gorgoch village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 8, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 120
Location: Gorchulu village (*present-day Gorgoch village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Google Earth, 2024

From 1989 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Tekeli Village Cemetery

Location: Akhta district, Tekeli village (Azerbaijani) / Kotayk province, Artavaz village (Armenian)
ID: 116 [MC-098], 40.614305, 44.576235

Tekeli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Derechichak *mahal* located in the Miskhana valley, on the left bank of the river of the same name, at the foot of Maymag Mountain. It was incorporated into Akhta district on September 9, 1930, and later into Hrazdan district on June 30, 1959. The village's name has appeared in historical sources since the early 18th century.[1] The village population also historically owned a winter pasture called Shordere, located in the Miskhana valley near Miskhana village (*later renamed Novo Mikhaylovka, A.A., S.H.*).[2] According to the 1914 edition of the Caucasian Calendar ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 807 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[3]

In June 1918, the residents of Tekeli village were forced to abandon the village as a result of an Armenian attack. They returned to the village subsequently.[4] On August 17-31, 1919, the village faced another Armenian assault.[5] The survivors of the massacre in Tekeli fled as refugees to the territories of the present-day Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1922, 248 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6] In 1950, 329 residents of the village were deported to Otruba village, Salyan district, Azerbaijan SSR.[7] Despite these deportations, by 1987, the village population had grown to 1,000 people.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Tekeli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Tekeli village was renamed Artavaz.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982,[11] and October 10, 1983[12] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.76 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and April 1, 2000[13] (Ikonos) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that significant destruction occurred within the cemetery area between 1989 and 2000. By this period, a 900-square-meter section from the southern part of the cemetery, including tombstones, had been incorporated into the yard of a residential property. The destruction of the tombstones suggests that the site was vandalized.

Satellite imagery dated 2016[14] and 2020[15] confirms that the cemetery area remained unchanged during this period. However, analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2023[16] reveals that the tombstones previously visible in the northeastern section of the cemetery had also been destroyed. The latest imagery documented the presence of 33 destroyed tombstones, with shadows indicating that five of these monuments still had their headstones standing upright.

The appropriation of the cemetery land and the destruction of tombstones caused severe damage to cultural heritage. Additionally, the changes in land use led to the destruction of the site's structural integrity.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated southeast of Tekeli village, 80 meters north of the road leading to Dedegishlag village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[17] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[18]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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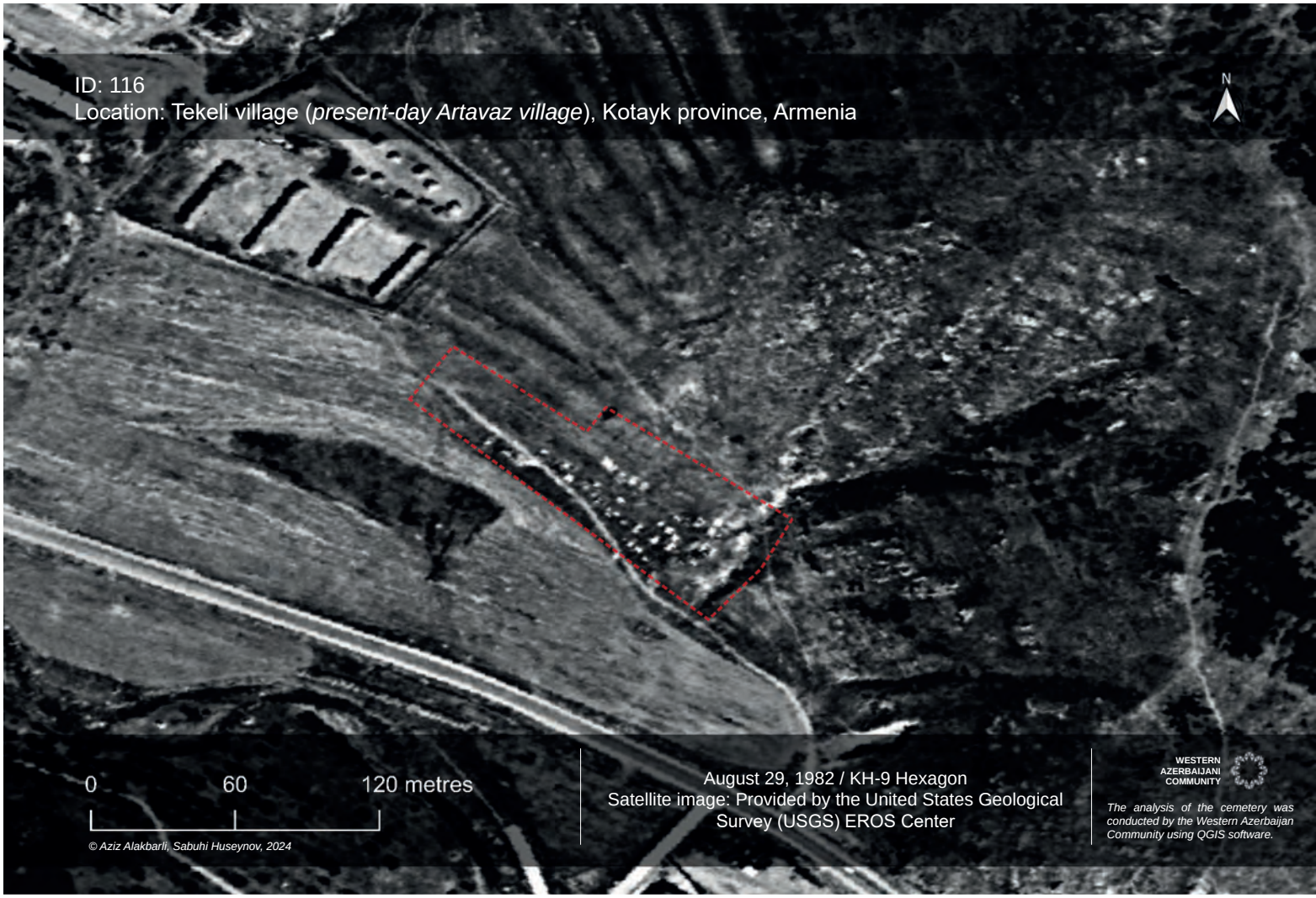
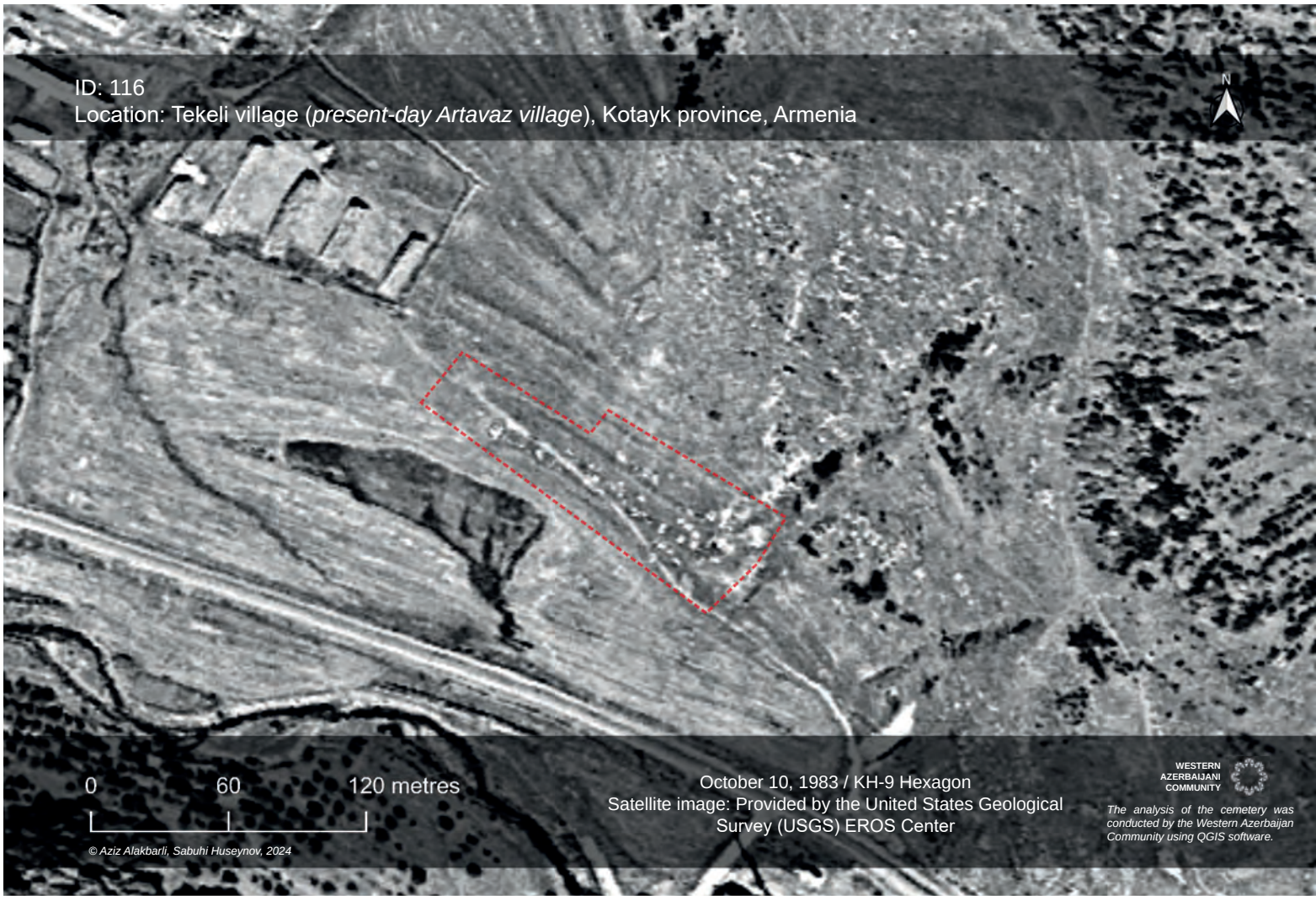
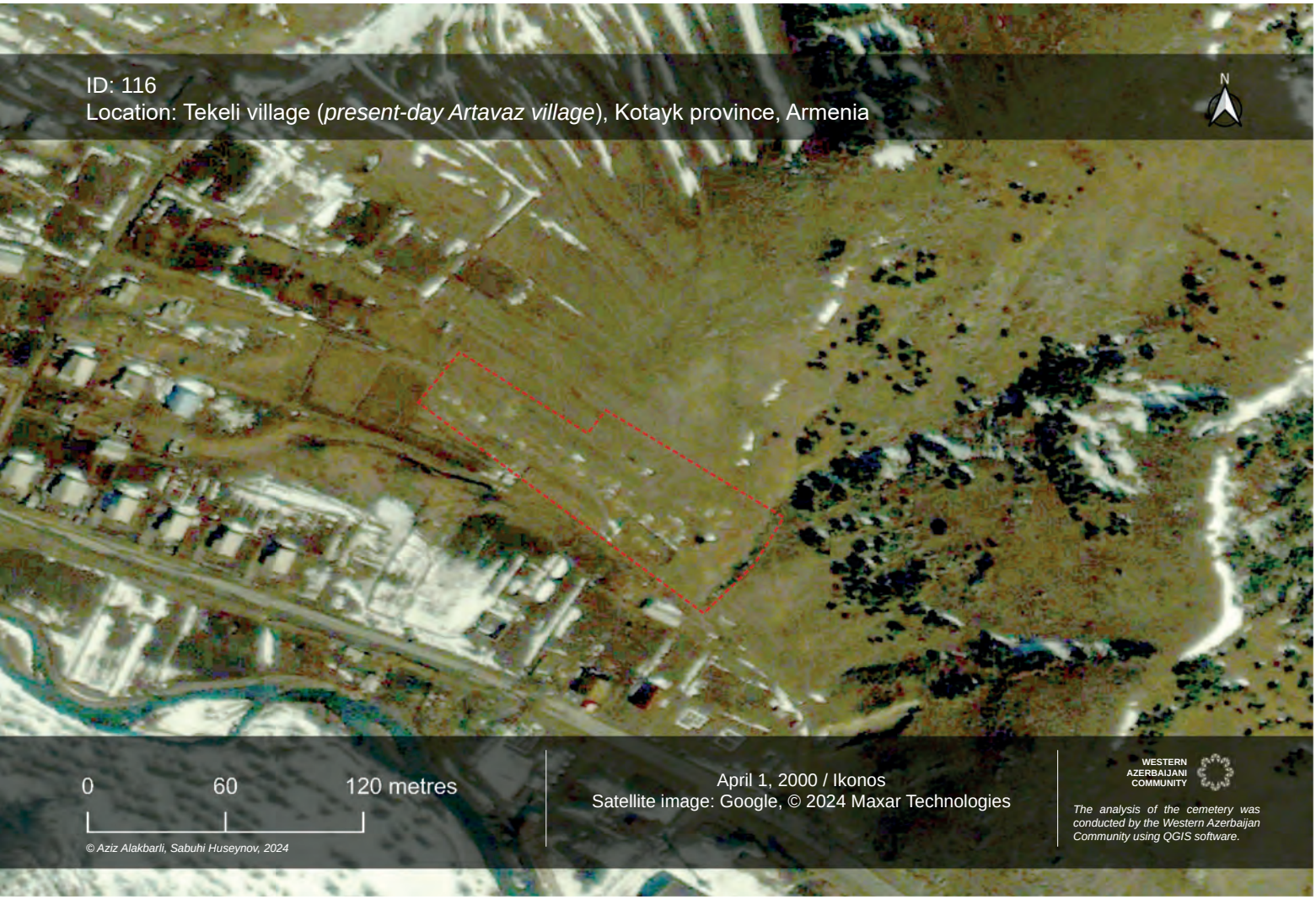
12. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A012*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
13. *Ikonos*, April 01, 2000. Maxar via Google Earth.
14. *GeoEye-1*, May 23, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
15. *Airbus*, August 31, 2020. CNES via Google Earth.
16. October 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-126-A (*Tsakhkadzor*) [map], scale 1:50,000,1974.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-126 (*Sevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 116
Location: Tekeli village (*present-day Artavaz village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 116
Location: Tekeli village (*present-day Artavaz village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 116
Location: Tekeli village (*present-day Artavaz village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 1, 2000 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

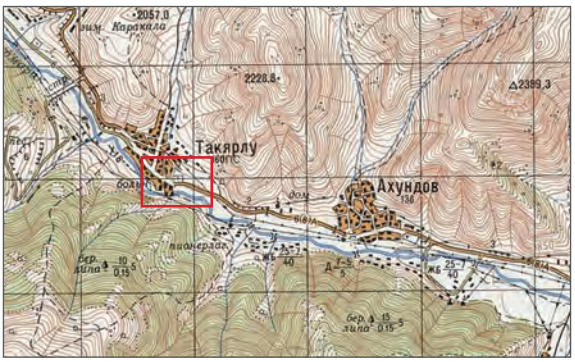
ID: 116
Location: Tekeli village (*present-day Artavaz village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 23, 2016
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 116
Location: Tekeli village (*present-day Artavaz village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
30
60 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

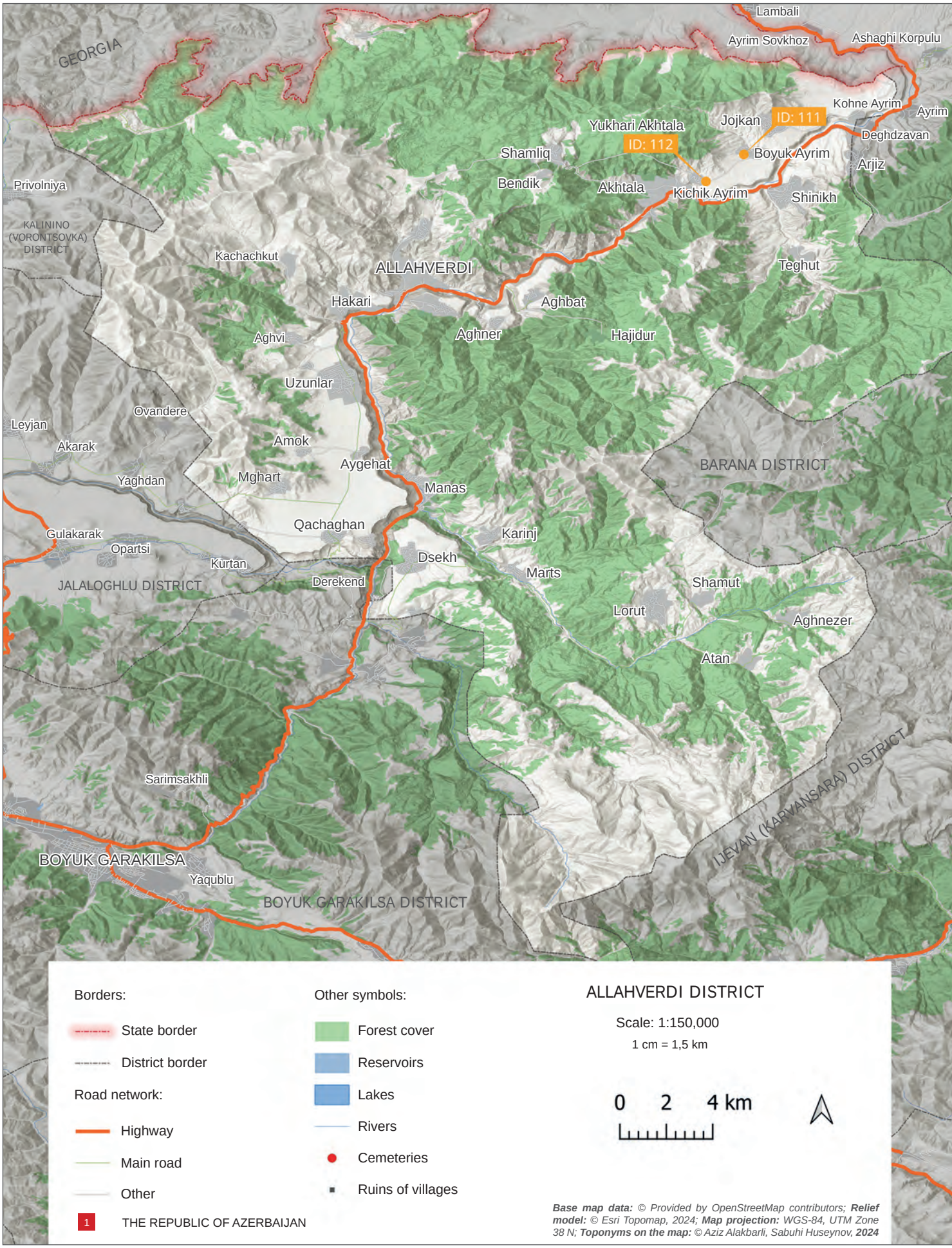
1974

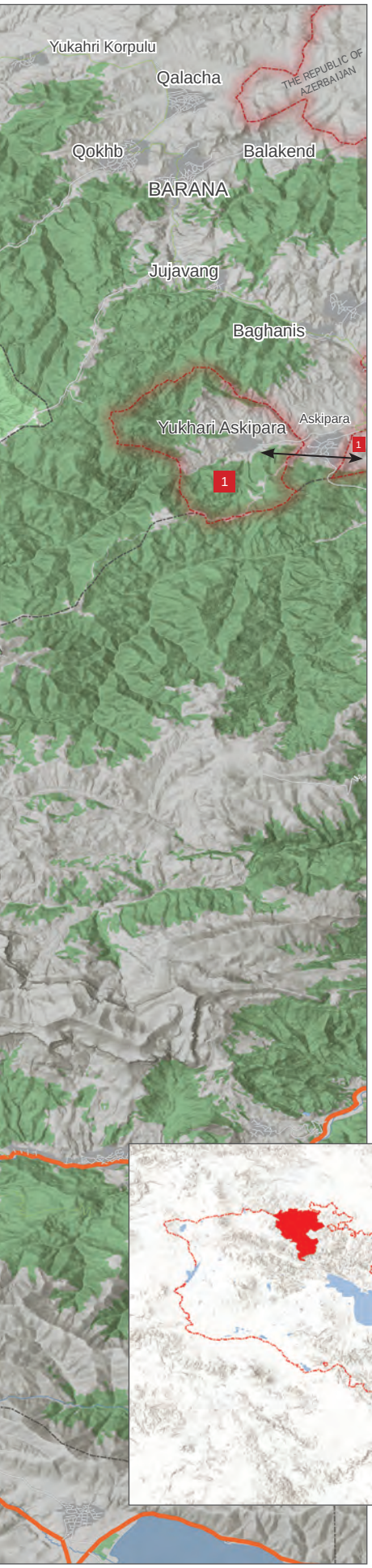
Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.


GEORGIA
Lambali
Ayrim Sovkhoz
Ashaghi Korpulu
Kohne Ayrim
Ayrim
Jojkan
ID: 111
Yukhari Akhtala
ID: 112
Deghdzavan
Shamliq
Boyuk Ayrim
Arjiz
Bendik
Akhtala
Kichik Ayrim
Shinikh
Privolniya
KALININO (VORONTSOVKA) DISTRICT
Kachachkut
ALLAHVERDI
Teghut
Hakari
Aghbat
Aghvi
Aghner
Hajidur
Uzunlar
Ovandere
Leyjan
Amok
Akarak
Aygehat
BARANA DISTRICT
Yaghdan
Mghart
Manas
Qachaghan
Gulakarak
Karinj
Opartsi
Dsekh
Kurtan
Marts
Shamut
JALALOGHLU DISTRICT
Derekend
Lorut
Aghnezer
Atan
Sarimsakhli
IJEVAN (KARVANSARA) DISTRICT
BOYUK GARAKILSA
Yaqublu
BOYUK GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
1
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
ALLAHVERDI DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



ALLAHVERDI DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Borchali region.
Administrative designation: Allahverdi district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 1,111 sq. km.

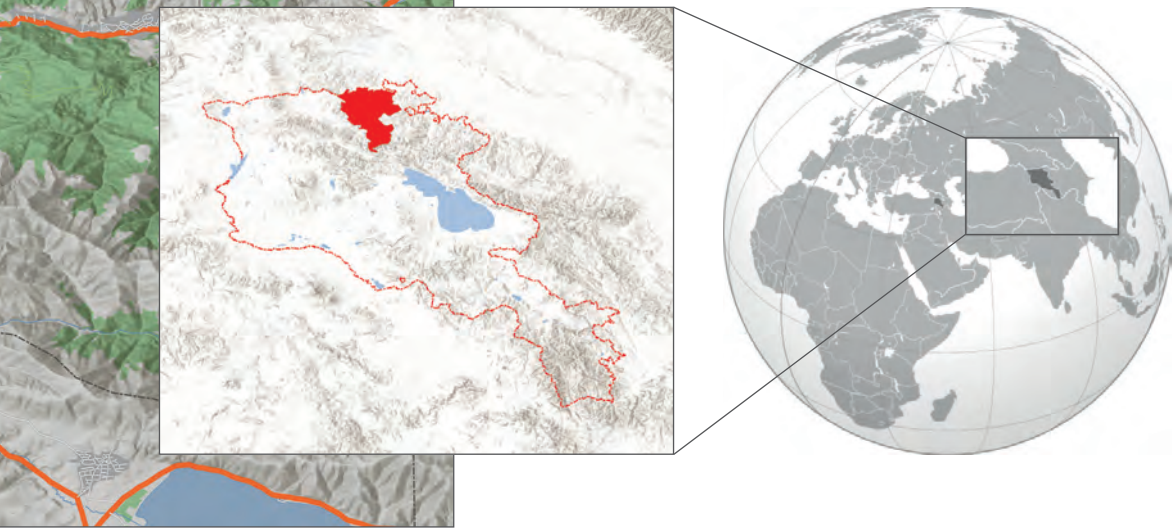
The district's administrative center was the city of Allahverdi (*later renamed Manas, A.A., S.H.*), which was under direct republican administration and was located 911 km from the city of Iravan.

On September 19, 1969, by the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, the district was renamed Tumanyan.

According to 1970 data, the district comprised one city under direct republican administration, three urban-type settlements, 13 village councils, and 39 residential settlements. The district's population (*excluding Allahverdi city, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 37,600.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included Allahverdi city, Boyuk Ayrim village, Kichik Ayrim village, Bughakar village, Gumushkhana village, Giliz village, Madan settlement, Pedik village, Shinikh village, Shamlugh village, and Yukhari Akhtala village.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved and its territory was incorporated into the Lori province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 1989 to 2008

Status: DESTROYED

Boyuk Ayrim Village Cemetery

Location: Allahverdi district, Boyuk Ayrim village (Azerbaijani) /Lori province, Medz Ayrum village (Armenian)
ID: 111 [MC-137], 41.1665779, 44.8192263

Boyuk Ayrim was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region, located on the left bank of the Borchali river (*present-day Debed river, A.A., S.H.*), to the left of the Iravan–Tiflis railway line. It was incorporated into Allahverdi district on 9 September 1930, Tumanyan district on 19 September 1969, and Tashir district in 1991. The village was originally known as Ayrim. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), Ayrim village had 381 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 17 to 31, 1918 (*during the Georgia–Armenia War, A.A., S.H.*), the Azerbaijani population of Ayrim village was forced to flee as a result of an Armenian assault. Shortly afterward, the Azerbaijani residents of Ayrim and other neighbouring villages that had been reduced to ruins collectively restored the village and resettled.[2] After the establishment of Soviet rule, many villages of the Sadakhli commune, including Ayrimli village, were incorporated into the Armenian SSR following a resolution adopted at the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) on July 7, 1921.[3] By 1922, the village had a population of 454. In 1926, a few families from Ayrim village separated and established a new settlement nearby, which they named Kichik Ayrim (Little Ayrim). From this point onward, Ayrim village became known as Boyuk Ayrim (Greater Ayrim). During the Soviet period, the term "Boyuk" (Greater) in the village's name was replaced with the Armenian word "Medz" (meaning Greater), and the village was renamed Medz Ayrum.

In the late 1980s, as a result of Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Boyuk Ayrim village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[4]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery (at right, top) dated October 4, 1977,[5] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.5 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1977 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 10, 2008[6] (WorldView-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that several changes occurred within the cemetery area between 1989 and 2008.

In the northern section, earthmoving operations were carried out over an area of 287 square meters, with excavator tracks clearly identified. A new dirt road, measuring 160 meters in length, was constructed through the central part of the cemetery. Despite these alterations, the analysis determined that the majority of the tombstones remained intact.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2008, December 29, 2017[7] (WorldView-2), and October 26, 2021[8] (WorldView-3) revealed no significant changes within the cemetery area.

On November 19, 2020, a report by the *Armenian Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)* provided a detailed assessment of the Azerbaijani cemetery in Boyuk Ayrim village. The video footage revealed that many graves had been destroyed by that time. Notably, no black marble tombstones remained intact, with fragments scattered in several areas. Conversely, most headstones made from ordinary stone were still standing; however, only three retained the deceased's portraits, while the rest had been deliberately defaced. The footage also showed remnants of destroyed tombstones (Images Nos. 1-6).

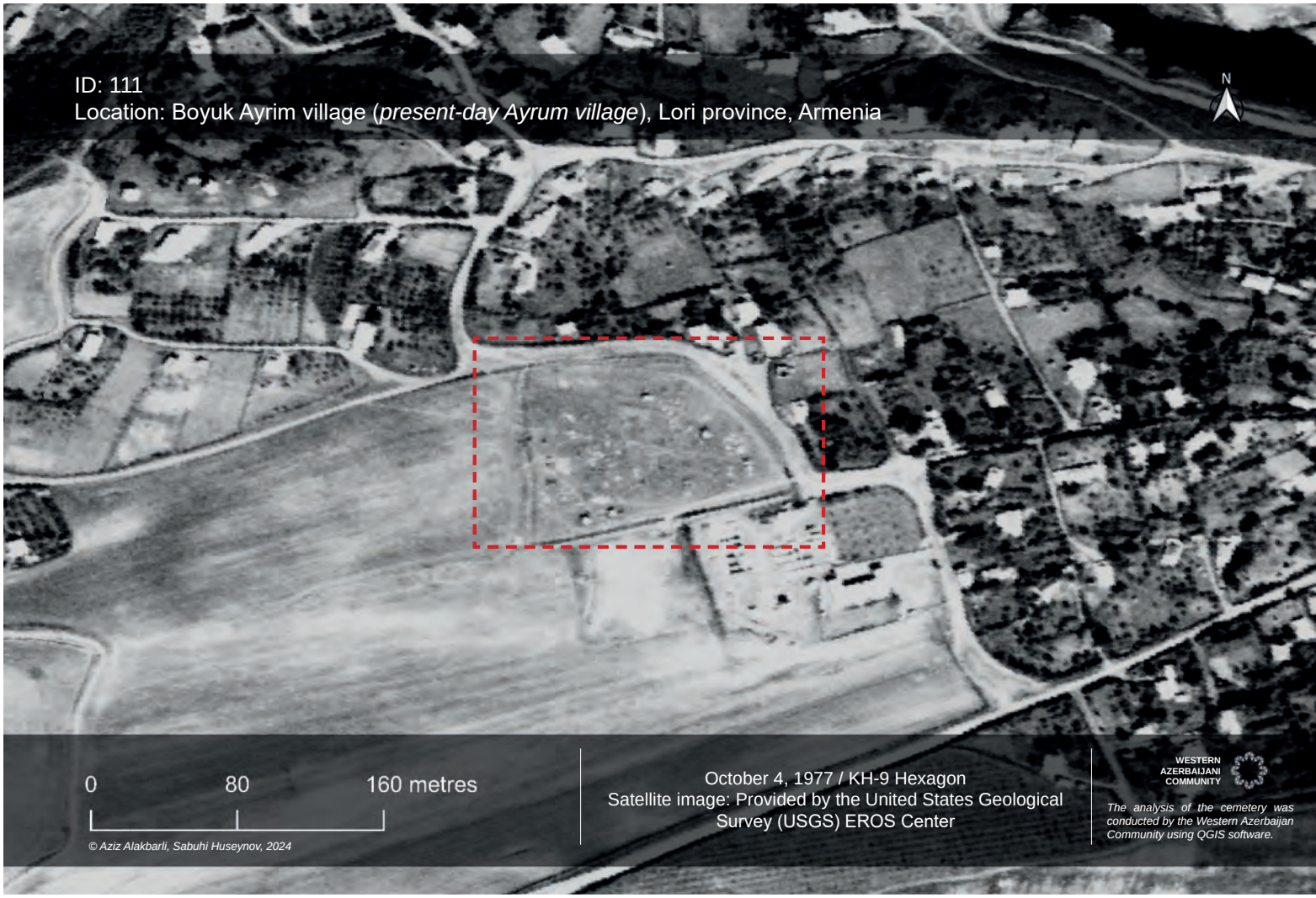
Within a 16 by 13-meter section of the cemetery, enclosed by stone walls on three sides and an iron fence on the fourth, four graves remained intact, whereas a black marble grave within this area had been completely demolished. An elderly Armenian named Arushanyan, interviewed by *RFE/RL's Armenian Service*, confirmed that locals had removed valuable stones from the cemetery, reprocessed them, and used them for their graves.9 The reporter also corroborated the disappearance of these valuable stones.

GEOLOCATION:

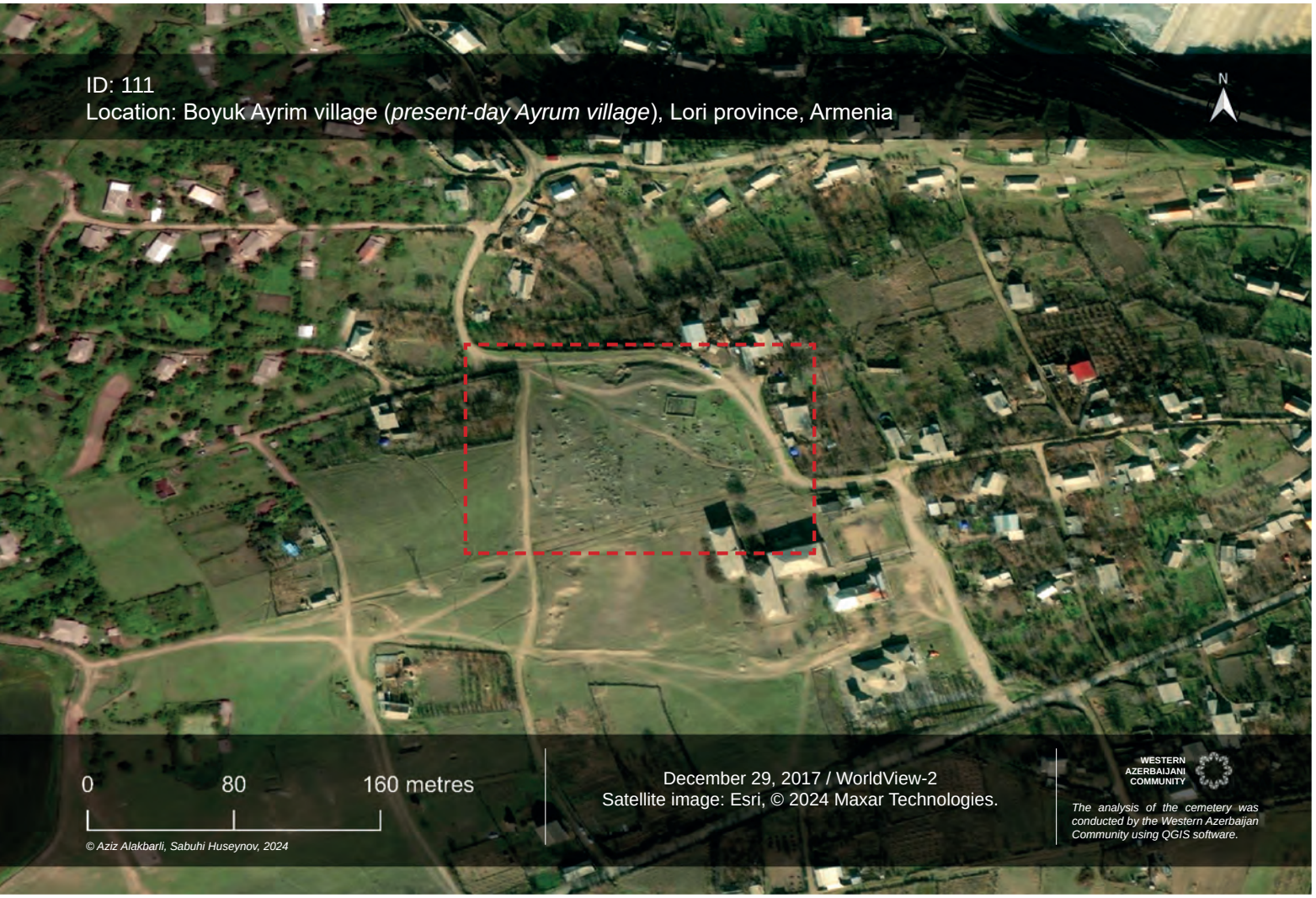
The cemetery is located in the western part of the village, surrounded by a fence, with farmlands to the west and southwest, and residential buildings to the east and northeast. The authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1977 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 85.
2. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 98–99.
3. From Protocol no. 13 of the Plenum Meeting of the Caucasian Bureau of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) (July 7, 1921), RGASPI, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, ll. 131–131 ob., Verified copy.
4. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 109.
5. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1213-300585A018*, October 04, 1977, USGS EROS Data Center.
6. *WorldView-1*, October 10, 2008, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
7. *WorldView-2*, December 29, 2017, Maxar via Esri Map.
8. *WorldView-3*, October 26, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
9. Karine Simonyan, "Mets u Pok'r Ayrumnerum adrbejants'ineri gerezmannern el pahpanvel en," *Azatutyun*, November 19, 2020, https://www.azatutyun.am/a/30958021.html.


ID: 111
Location: Boyuk Ayrim village (*present-day Ayrum village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 4, 1977 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 111
Location: Boyuk Ayrim village (*present-day Ayrum village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
Ground disturbance and excavation works
287 square metres
Dirt road
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 2008 / WorldView-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 111
Location: Boyuk Ayrim village (*present-day Ayrum village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
December 29, 2017 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 111
Location: Boyuk Ayrim village (*present-day Ayrum village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 26, 2021 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

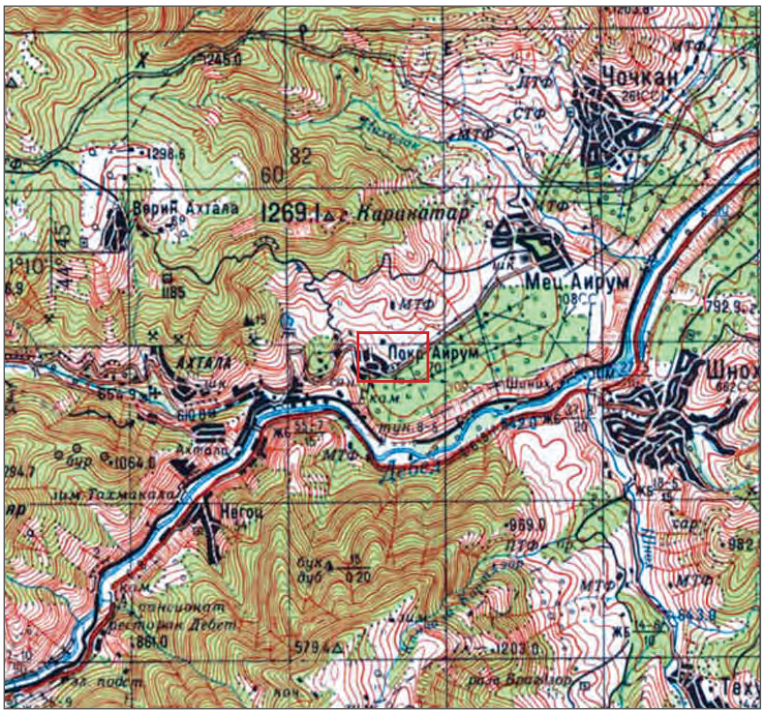
© Azatutyun.am, 2020

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Kichik Ayrim Village Cemetery

Location: Allahverdi district, Ashaghi Ayrim village (Azerbaijani) /Lori province, Pokr Ayrum village (Armenian)
ID: 112 [MC-136], 41.1528037, 44.7999653



Kichik Ayrim was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region, located on the left bank of the Borchali river (*present-day Debed river, A.A., S.H.*). It was incorporated into Allahverdi district on 9 September 1930, Tumanyan district on 19 September 1969, and Tashir district in 1991. The village was also known as Bala Ayrim. Kichik Ayrim was founded in 1926 by several families who migrated from Ayrim village. Following their departure, the original Ayrim village became known as Boyuk Ayrim (Greater Ayrim), while the newly established village was named Kichik Ayrim (Little Ayrim) or Bala Ayrim (Small Ayrim). During the Soviet period, the word "Kichik" (Little) in the village's name was translated into Armenian and recorded accordingly on Soviet topographic maps. The village had 388 Azerbaijani residents in 1979.[1]

In the late 1980s, as a result of Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Kichik Ayrim village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[2]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery (at right, top) dated October 4, 1977,[3] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.35 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1977 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 7, 2006[4] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that the cemetery was destroyed entirely between 1989 and 2006. The satellite imagery shows fragments of tombstones scattered across the area.

The 2006 satellite imagery also indicates that the cemetery had extended northwestward until 1988. No shadows from headstones were detected (except for two graves on the eastern side, A.A., S.H.). However, the area was still enclosed by fences.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and 2016 (WorldView-2) revealed that between 2006 and 2016,[5] the site had been encroached upon, with a portion of the northwestern area converted into a residential yard and used as a vegetable garden.

Photographic evidence indicates that large-scale vandalism occurred prior to 2006, resulting in extensive destruction (Images Nos. 1-5).

Satellite imagery dated 2016 and October 21, 20216 (WorldView-3) revealed no changes in the cemetery area.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on the left side of the road leading to Boyuk Ayrim village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[7] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[8]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1977 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Hakobyan, Toros Khachiki, Stepan Tigrani Melik-Bakhshyan, and Hakob Khachiki Barseghyan, *Hayastani yev harakits shrjaneri teghanuneri bararan*, 1-in hatvor (4 hatvori sharjum) (Yerevan: Yerevani Hamalsarani hratarakutyun, 1986), 244.
2. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 110.
3. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1213-300585A018*, October 04, 1977, USGS EROS Data Center.
4. *QuickBird-2*, January 07, 2006. Maxar via Esri Map.
5. *WorldView-2*, May 25, 2016. Maxar via Esri Map.
6. *WorldView-3*, October 26, 2021. Maxar via Esri Map.
7. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-102-G (*Alaverdi*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
8. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-102 (*Alaverdi*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 112
Location: Kichik Ayrim village (present-day Pokr Ayrum village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 4, 1977 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 112
Location: Kichik Ayrim village (present-day Pokr Ayrum village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 7, 2006 / Quickbird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 112
Location: Kichik Ayrim village (*present-day Pokr Ayrum village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
May 25, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 112
Location: Kichik Ayrim village (*present-day Pokr Ayrum village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
October 26, 2021 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
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CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

© Bnakavayr, 2024

2

3

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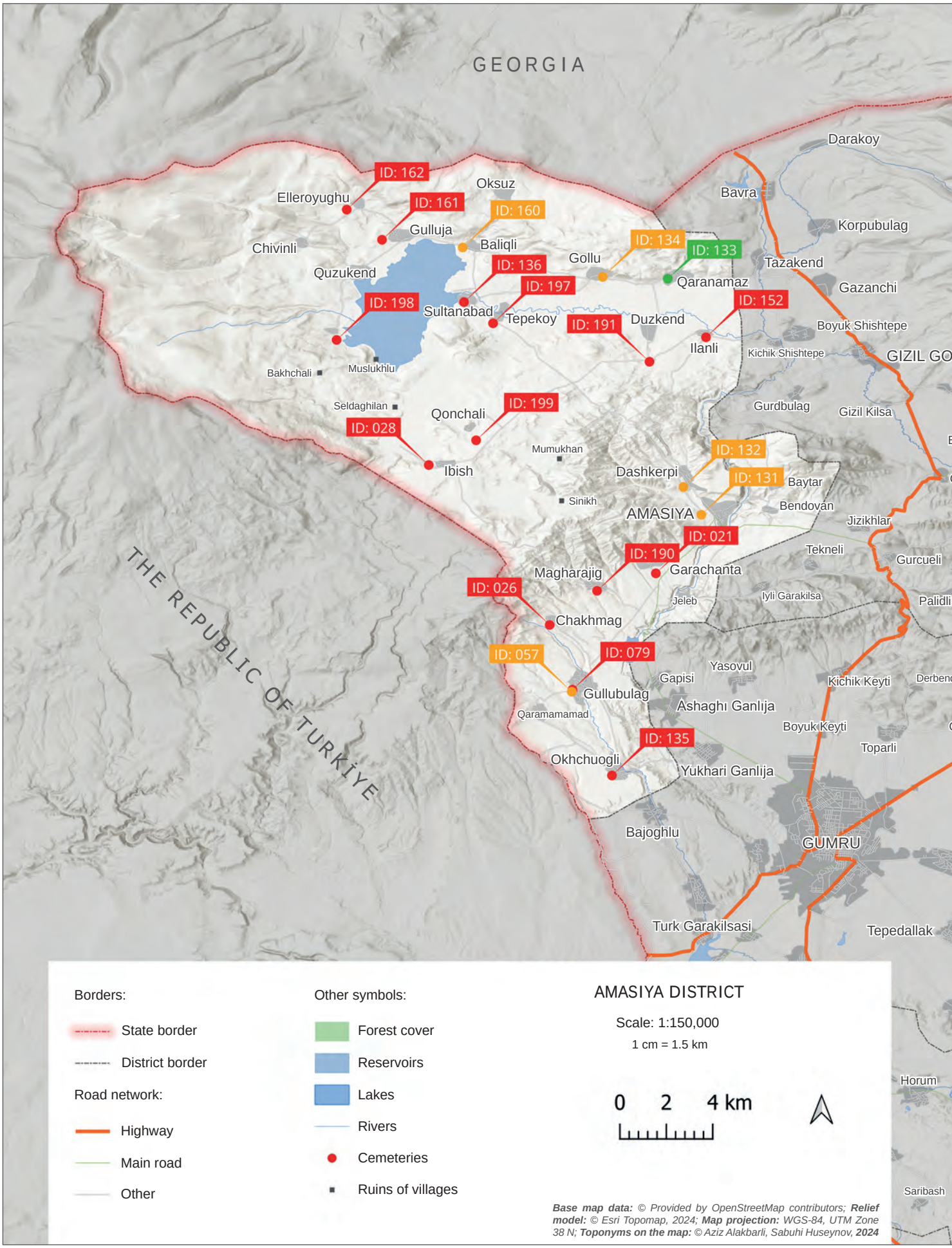
GEORGIA
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
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ID: 161
ID: 160
ID: 134
ID: 133
ID: 136
ID: 197
ID: 198
ID: 152
ID: 191
ID: 199
ID: 028
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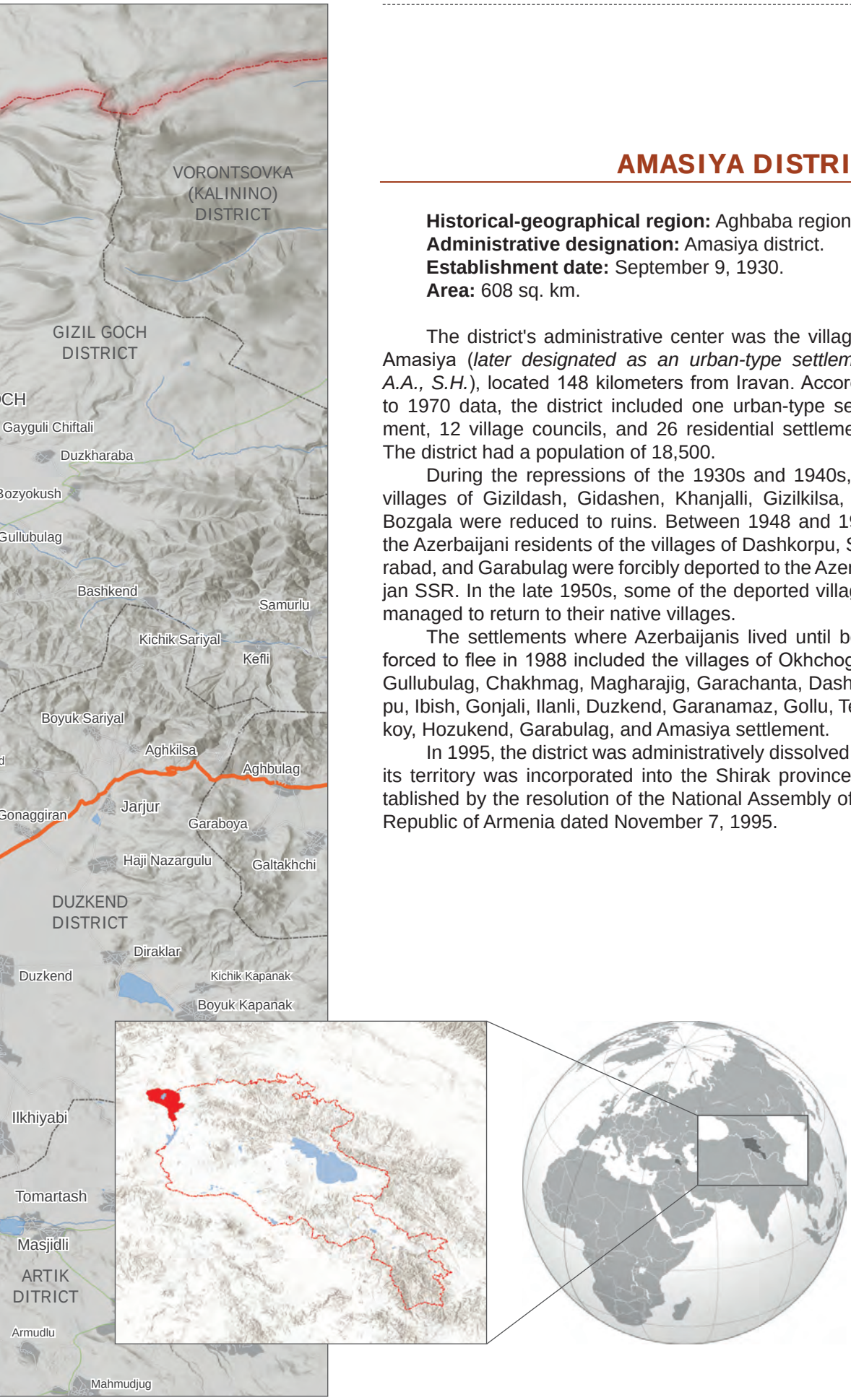
ID: 131
ID: 021
ID: 190
ID: 026
ID: 057
ID: 079
ID: 135
Elleroyughu
Oksuz
Gulluja
Baliqli
Chivinli
Quzukend
Gollu
Qaranamaz
Tazakend
Sultanabad
Tepekoy
Duzkend
Ilanli
Darakoy
Bavra
Korpubulag
Gazanchi
Boyuk Shishtepe
Kichik Shishtepe
GIZIL GO
Bakhchali
Muslukhlu
Seldaghilan
Qonchali
Gurdbulag
Gizil Kilsa
Mumukhan
Ibish
Dashkerpi
Baytar
Sinikh
AMASIYA
Bendovan
Jizikhlar
Tekneli
Gurcueli
Magharajig
Garachanta
Jeleb
Iyli Garakilsa
Palidli
Chakhmag
Yasovul
Gapisi
Kichik Keyti
Derbend
Gullubulag
Qaramamamad
Ashaghı Ganlija
Boyuk Keyti
Toparli
Okhchuogli
Yukhari Ganlija
Bajoghlu
GUMRU
Turk Garakilsasi
Tepedallak
Horum
Saribash
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
AMASIYA DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1.5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



AMASIYA DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Aghbaba region.
Administrative designation: Amasiya district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 608 sq. km.

The district's administrative center was the village of Amasiya (*later designated as an urban-type settlement, A.A., S.H.*), located 148 kilometers from Iravan. According to 1970 data, the district included one urban-type settlement, 12 village councils, and 26 residential settlements. The district had a population of 18,500.

During the repressions of the 1930s and 1940s, the villages of Gizildash, Gidashen, Khanjalli, Gizilkilsa, and Bozgala were reduced to ruins. Between 1948 and 1951, the Azerbaijani residents of the villages of Dashkorpu, Shurabad, and Garabulag were forcibly deported to the Azerbaijan SSR. In the late 1950s, some of the deported villagers managed to return to their native villages.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Okhchoghlu, Gullubulag, Chakhmag, Magharajig, Garachanta, Dashkorpu, Ibish, Gonjali, Ilanli, Duzkend, Garanamaz, Gollu, Tepekoy, Hozukend, Garabulag, and Amasiya settlement.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved and its territory was incorporated into the Shirak province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 2003 to 2021

Status: DESTROYED

Amasiya Settlement Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Amasiya settlement (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Amasiya settlement (Armenian)
ID: 131 [MC-379], 40.955034, 43.776862

Amasiya was an Azerbaijani-populated village, later designated as a settlement, located in the Aghbaba region 23 kilometers northeast of Gyumri, on the right bank of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. The village of Amasiya was referred to as Hamasa in historical sources until the late 19th century. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 564 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, it was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of Amasiya village was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] Following this, a large portion of the village's population resettled in Demirkoy village (*formerly known as Russian Arginasi village, A.A., S.H.*) in the Akyaka district, Kars province, present-day Turkiye. In 1922, 161 Azerbaijanis lived in Amasiya village.[4] From that date onward, Armenians were also settled in Amasiya village.

In 1930, Amasiya became the administrative center of the newly established Aghbaba district, and from 1935, it became the center of the district sharing its name.

In the late 1980s, as a result of Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November–December 1988, 1,830 Azerbaijani residents[5] of Amasiya settlement took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery (at right, top) dated August 29, 1982,[7] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.37 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2003[8] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis revealed that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2003. Despite the destruction, the shadows of most headstones are still visible in the 2003 imagery. The analysis also revealed that by that time, large-scale excavation had taken place in the southwestern part of the cemetery, and the western and southern sections had been plowed for agricultural use.

Video footage from August 16, 2021 (Images Nos. 1-6) documented that a large part of the cemetery had been destroyed with particular brutality. Most of the headstones were destroyed, the grave slabs were deliberately broken, and some graves showed clear signs of intentional disturbance. The names inscribed on many headstones were erased, the portraits of the deceased were scratched off, and both headstones and grave slabs were shattered. Additionally, the iron railings surrounding some grave monuments were destroyed. However, some iron railings still remain.

The destruction was documented in satellite imagery dated August 31, 2021[9] (GeoEye-1), which clearly showed that a large part of the cemetery had been demolished, with graves completely obliterated.

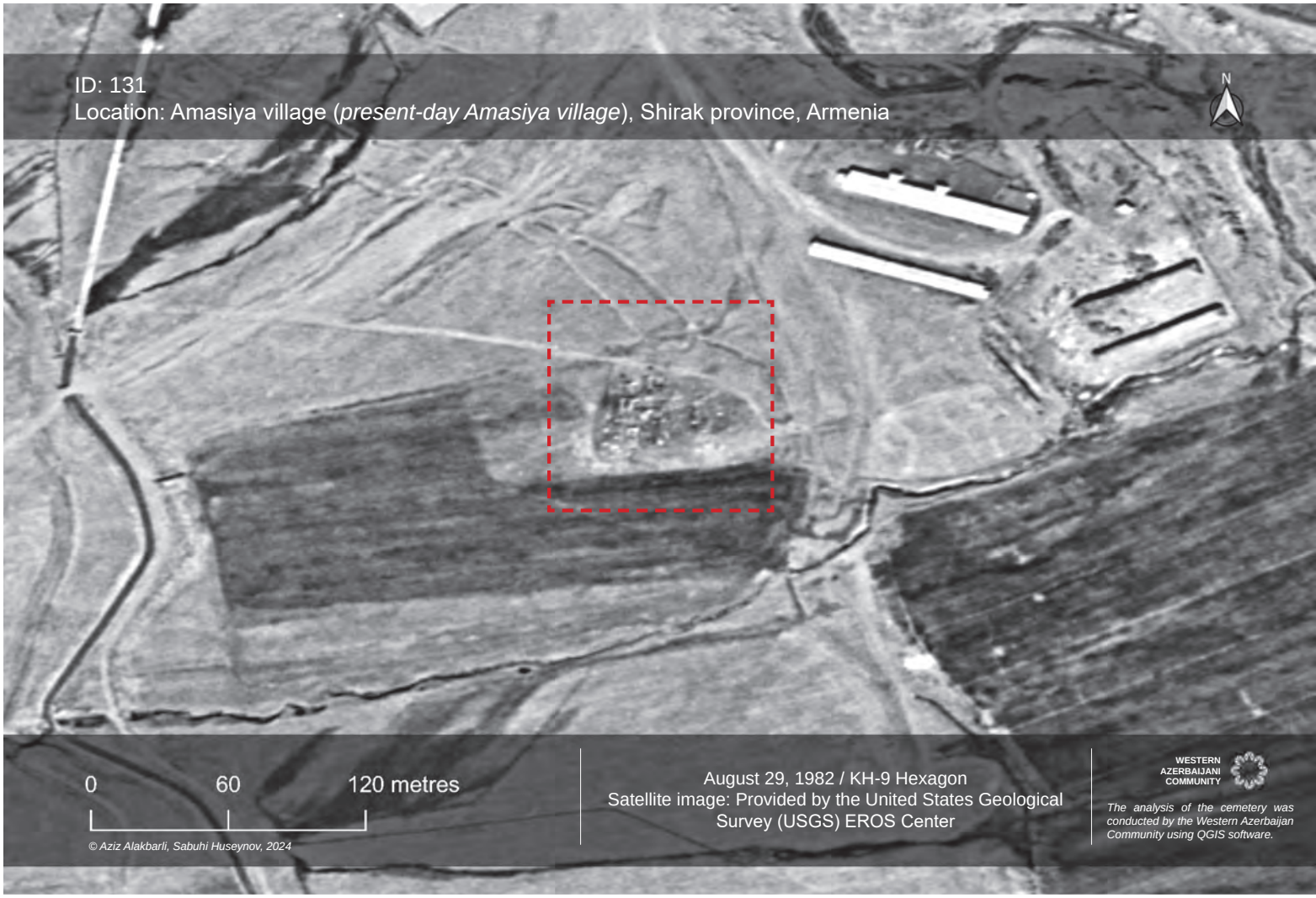
Between 1989 and 2003, the cemetery suffered severe damage from excavation and plowing activities, which significantly damaged its structural integrity and historical significance. The video footage from 2021 further revealed that the cemetery had not only been physically destroyed but also deliberately vandalized.

GEOLOCATION:

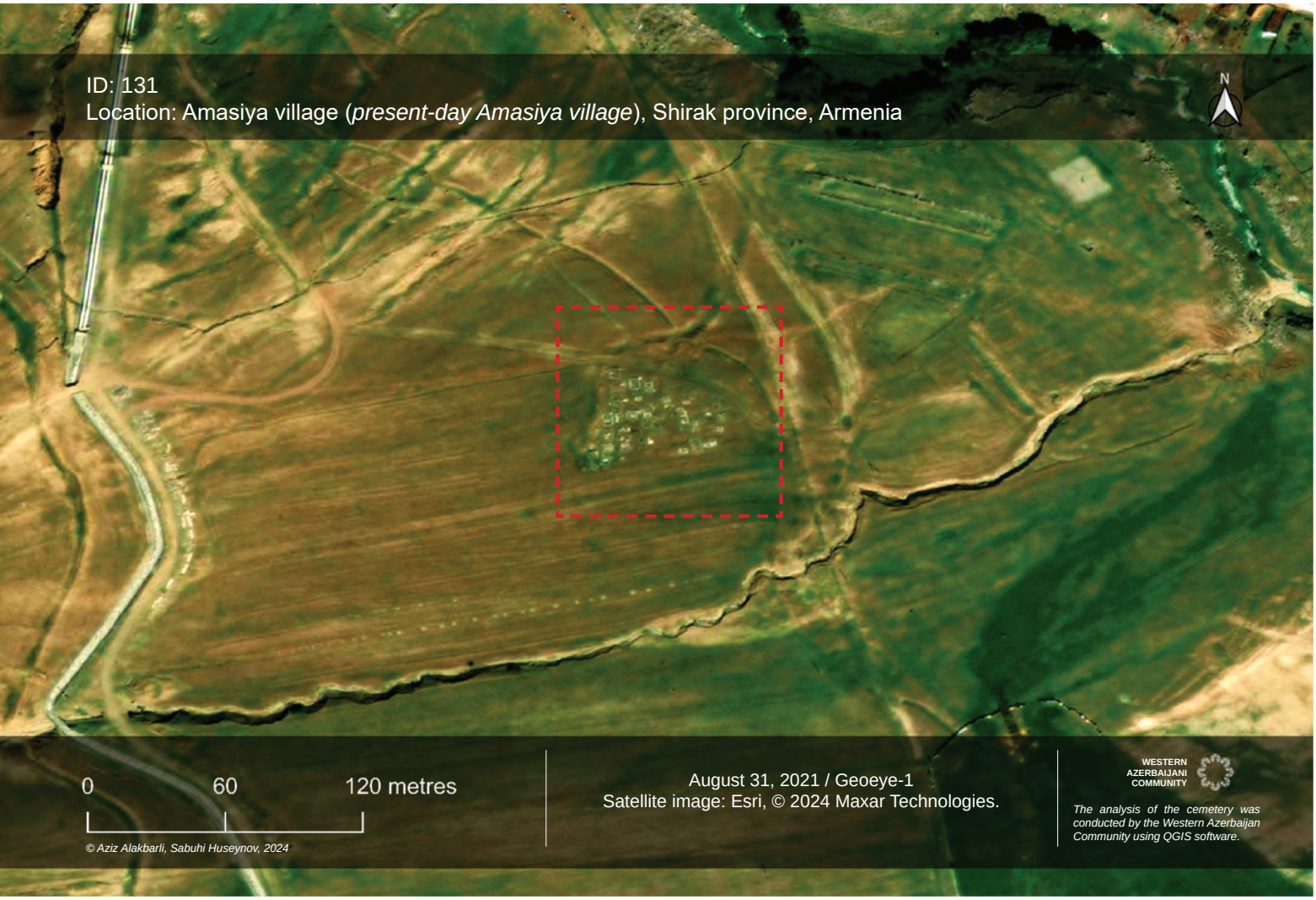
The cemetery is located 700 meters northwest of the Amasiya settlement. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[10] and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 88.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
5. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 12.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 193.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117A010*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003. Maxar via Google Earth.
9. *GeoEye-1*, August 31, 2021. Maxar via Esri Map.
10. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112-B (*Amasiia*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
11. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 131
Location: Amasiya village (present-day Amasiya village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

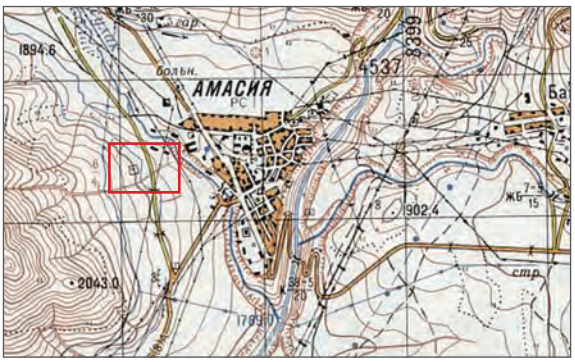
ID: 131
Location: Amasiya village (present-day Amasiya village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 131
Location: Amasiya village (*present-day Amasiya village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2021 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

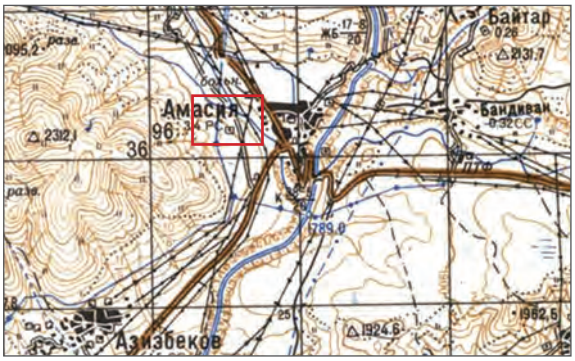
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

Still frames from the video footage of 2021.

From 1989 to 2003

Status: DESTROYED

Baligli Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Baligli village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Zorakert village (Armenian)
ID: 160 [MC-039], 41.090860, 43.655712

Baligli was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, on the northeastern shore of Lake Arpa, northwest of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 474 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, it was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of Baligli was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] Following this, a large portion of the village's population resettled in Kars province of present-day Turkiye. In 1922, 161 Azerbaijanis lived in Baligli village.[4] In the 1930s, the population of the neighboring village of Khanjalli also relocated to Baligli village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November–December 1988, 432 Azerbaijani residents[5] of Baligli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Baligli village was renamed Zorakert.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.13 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the cemetery was located on a high hill.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis revealed that the cemetery had been subjected to vandalism and destruction between 1989 and 2003.

Photographs taken in 2022 by blogger Gurdeep Mattu provided significant evidence for evaluating this past act of vandalism. The photographs documented headstones that had been broken, toppled, and defaced with their inscriptions scraped off, along with tombstones from which the portraits of the deceased had been erased through scratching. However, the presence of some intact iron railings near certain tombstones indicates that the incident was not an act of looting. Mattu's photographs confirm that the cemetery had been severely vandalized. The breaking of headstones and the scraping of inscriptions can be interpreted as deliberate and aggressive acts of vandalism (Images Nos. 1-8). The removal of the portraits of the deceased represents a deliberate act of disrespect toward the cemetery's cultural and historical significance. The fact that the iron railings were not looted further reinforces that vandalism was intended to erase the local population's history.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and October 16, 2019,[10] (CNES/Airbus) indicates that the condition of the cemetery remained unchanged between these dates.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on a high hill southwest of the village, at an elevation of 2,039 meters above sea level. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[11], and from 1976 at two different scales: 1:50,000[12] and 1:100,000[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

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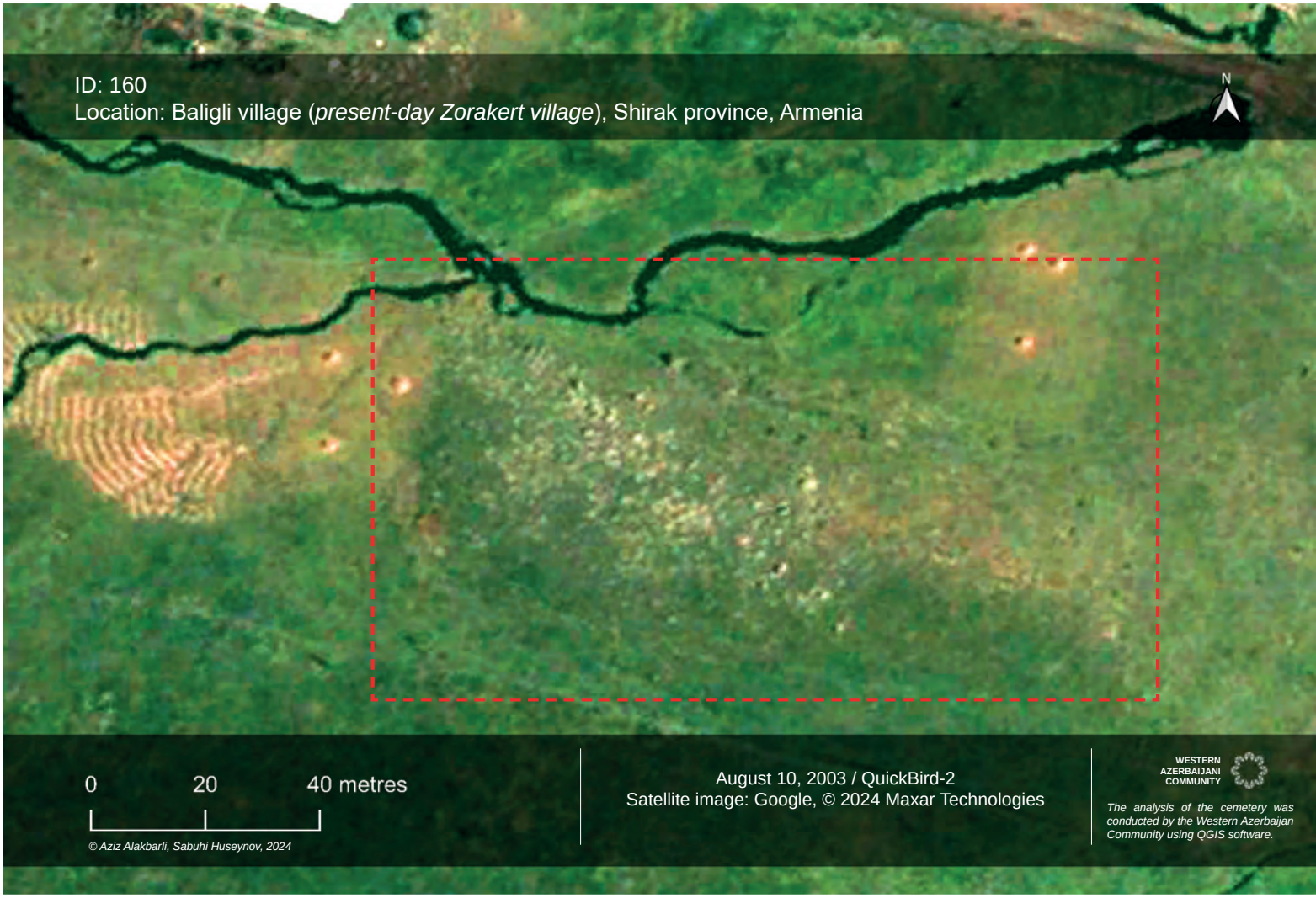
1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 96.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
5. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 12.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 180.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
8. *Corona,1115-2154F086,* September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. October 16, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100-V (*Giullidzha*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100 (*Bogdanovka*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 160
Location: Baligli village (*present-day Zorakert village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
20
40 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 160
Location: Baligli village (*present-day Zorakert village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
20
40 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 16, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

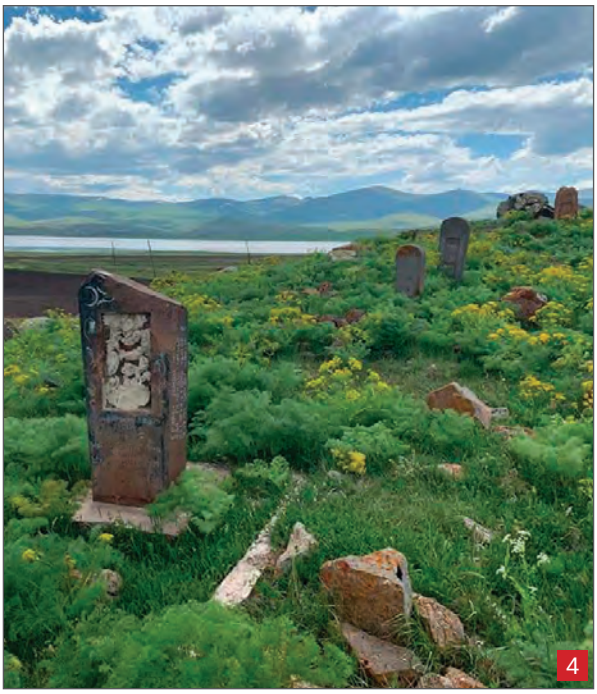
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2024

3


4

5

6

7

8

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2024

From 2003 to 2020

Status: OBLITERATED

Chakhmag Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Chakhmag village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Kamkhut village (Armenian)
ID: 026 [MC-012], 40.8990242, 43.6997086

Chakhmag was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Shorayel region, at the southeastern foothills of the Gizilbash Mountain. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 406 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, it was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On January 16, 1920, following an Armenian assault, the population of Chakhmag village was forced to abandon their homes.[2] During the assault, 30 houses in the village were destroyed, and the villagers' property was looted. The surviving population fled to the Kaghizman district of present-day Turkiye.[3] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[4] In 1922, only 82 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, where they began living alongside newly migrated Armenian refugees.[5] In subsequent years, these Armenian refugees relocated to the city of Gyumri.

In the late 1980s, as a result of Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 387 Azerbaijani residents[6] of Chakhmag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Chakhmag village was renamed Kamkhut.[8]

The cemetery was located in the southern part of the village, with a history of over 200 years. At the entrance, on the left side, several headstones marked the graves of Turkish martyrs, which were situated near the pir (a sacred site of spiritual veneration) within the cemetery. These graves had headstones approximately 80 centimeters high, featuring a crescent symbol at the top and inscriptions in Arabic script at the bottom.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982,[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.53 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2003,[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings indicate that the cemetery underwent significant changes between 1989 and 2003. By August 2003, the cemetery's layout, surrounding fence, and tombstones had been destroyed. The tombstones that remained intact up to that date were primarily identified in the eastern and southwestern sections. GeoEye-1 satellite imagery dated August 21, 2020,[12] indicated that the condition of the cemetery had remained stable since that period.

GEOLOCATION:

This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1941 (1:42,000 scale)[13], 1983 (1:50,000 scale)[14], and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 205.
2. "Shuragel ve Zarushad kazalarïnda Ermeniler tarafïndan yapïlan mezalim", *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni mezalimi*, IV. jilt (1920-1922) (Ankara: Osmanli Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 19-21; original source: BOA, HR.SYS 2878/55.
3. "Zarushad, Chïldïr, Aghbaba ve Shuregel`e baghlï koylerde ermenilerje yapïlan soykïrïïm," A*rshiv belgelerine gore Kafkazlar`da ve Anadolu`da ermeni mezalimi*, III. jilt, (1920-1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1997), 97-100; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/18.
4. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 14.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 174.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
9. Verbal account by Vali Gulu oghlu Novruzov, born in 1958, a resident of Chakhmag village, Amasiya district.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117A010*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. QuickBird-2, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. GeoEye-1, October 20, 2020, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. General'nyï Shtab, Krasnoi Armii, XXXI-30 (*Giulli-bulag*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112-A (*Giullibulag*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
15. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.

ID: 026
Location: Chakhmag village (present-day Kamkhut village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

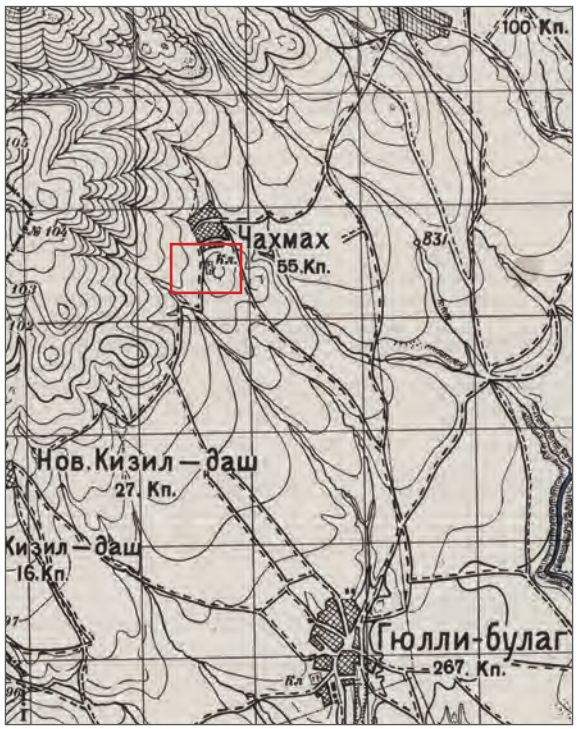
ID: 026
Location: Chakhmag village (present-day Kamkhut village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 026
Location: Chakhmag village (*present-day Kamkhut village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 2020 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

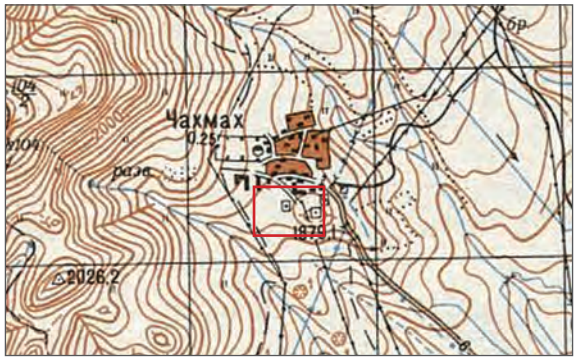
1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



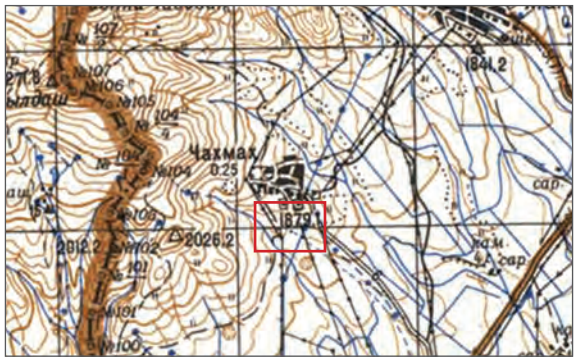
1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

© Bnakavay, 2024.

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Dashkorpu Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Dashkorpu village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Dashkerpi village (Armenian)
ID: 132 [MC-153], 40.969175, 43.767728

Dashkorpu was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, north of Amasiya settlement, on the bank of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 431 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source "Karapapakhs" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, it was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of the village was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] Following this, a large portion of the village's population resettled in Kars province of present-day Turkiye. In 1922, 220 Azerbaijanis, who were part of the population of Dashkorpu, returned to their homes and began rebuilding the village.[4]

In 1950, 211 residents of the village were deported to Yeniarkh village in the Goychay district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[5] By 1953, some of the deported residents were able to return to their native village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 680 Azerbaijani residents[6] of Dashkorpu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 3.13 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2003[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2003. By 2003, earthmoving had taken place in the southwestern part of the cemetery, while the northeastern part had been plowed for agricultural purposes.

On August 1, 2021, blogger Gurdeep Mattu shared several photographs of the cemetery on his X account. The photographs enabled a detailed assessment of the vandalism acts that had occurred in the cemetery. The analysis of the photographs revealed that, during the destruction that occurred before 2003, many headstones had been broken, with several toppled and shattered into pieces. The portraits of the deceased on all the grave monuments had been scraped off, and the iron railings surrounding the monuments had been demolished (Images Nos. 1-8).

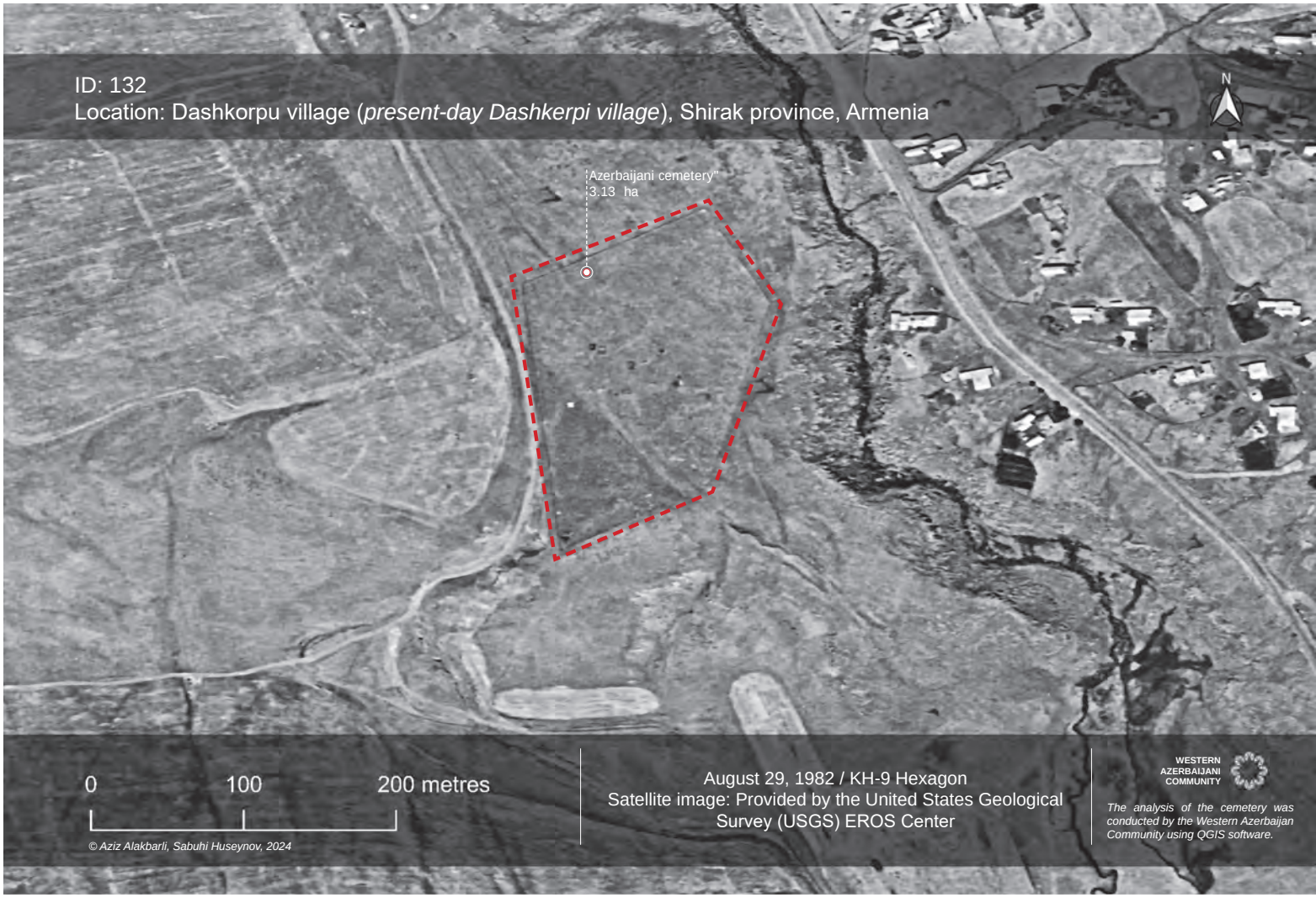
The results of the analysis clearly indicate that the cemetery area was subjected to extensive destruction after 1989. Its structural integrity was destroyed. The toppling and breaking of tombstones that had survived to the present day, the shattering of grave slabs, the destruction—but not looting—of iron railings, and the scratching off of portraits of the deceased from grave monuments collectively prove that the cemetery was deliberately destroyed.

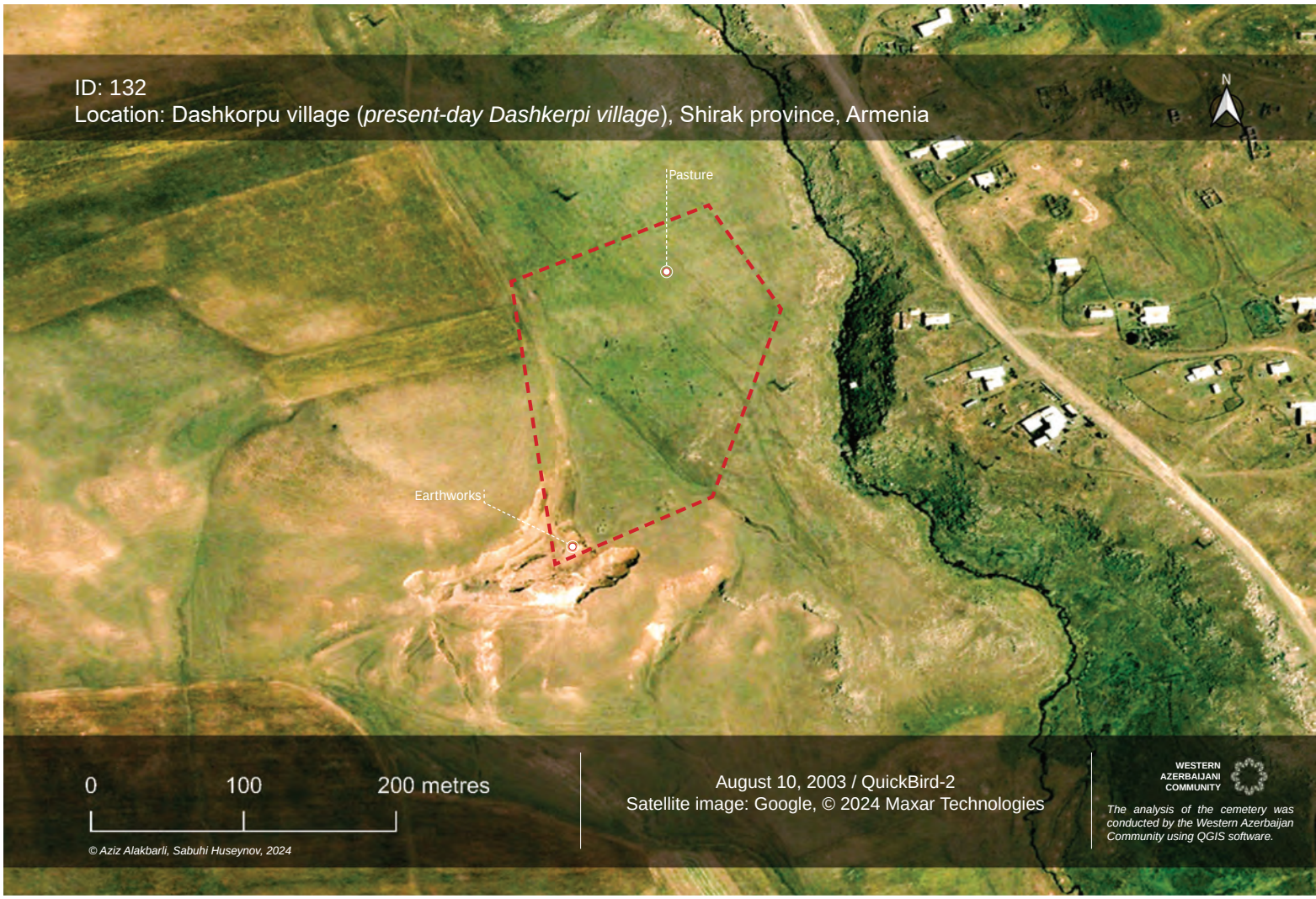
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 700 meters northwest of Amasiya settlement, on the right bank of the Amasiya river. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[10], 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11], and 1985 (1:100,000 scale).[12] Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Hexagon imagery dated 1982 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 116.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
5. *Azärbayjanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär)*, introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 487.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 12.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 177.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117A010*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003. Maxar via Google Earth.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoi Armii, XXXI-30 (*Giulli-bulag*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, *K-38-112-B* (*Amasiya*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.

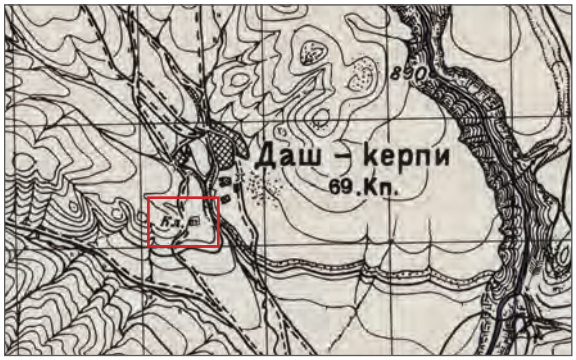

ID: 132
Location: Dashkorpu village (present-day Dashkerpi village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Azerbaijani cemetery"
3.13 ha
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 132
Location: Dashkorpu village (present-day Dashkerpi village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Pasture
Earthworks
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

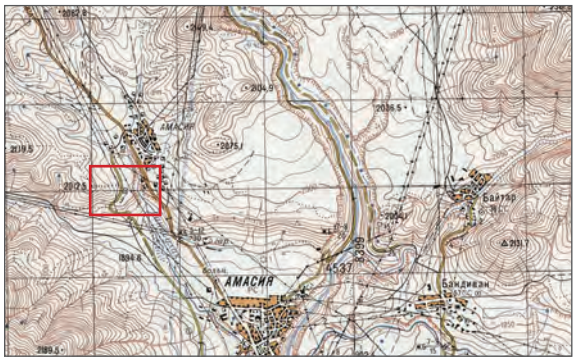
1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



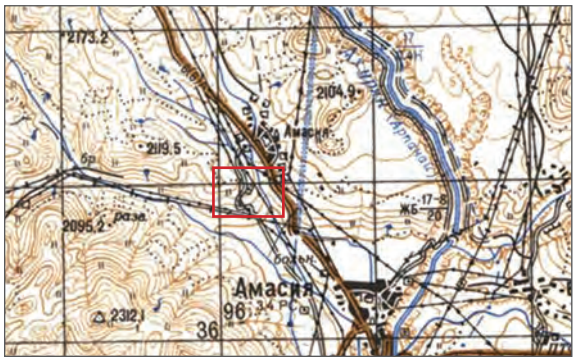
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

© Gurdeep Mattu. 2022

3

4

5

6

7

8

© Wikipedia,Revolution Saga. 2023

© Gurdeep Mattu. 2022

From 2019 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Duzkend Village New Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Duzkend (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Alvar village (Armenian)
ID: 191 [MC-060], 41.032844, 43.750485

Duzkend was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, on the right bank of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 722 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

On May 1, 1918, the villages of Duzkend and Shishtepe were attacked by approximately one hundred armed Armenian horsemen, resulting in the massacre of the local population. During this massacre, 60 residents of both villages, including women and children, were killed. The surviving population took refuge in the territory of Kars province, present-day Turkiye.[2] However, shortly afterward, with the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, the population returned and resettled. Following the Armistice of Mudros, under Article 11 of the treaty, the defeated Ottoman Empire was required to withdraw its forces from the region by November 1918. From December 1918 to April 1919, Duzkend village was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of the village was forced to flee following an Armenian assault.[3] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[4] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1921, 359 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 580 Azerbaijani residents[6] of the village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Duzkend village was renamed Alvar.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis revealed tombstones on the cemetery site with a heterogeneous surface pattern.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was completely destroyed between 1989 and 2003.

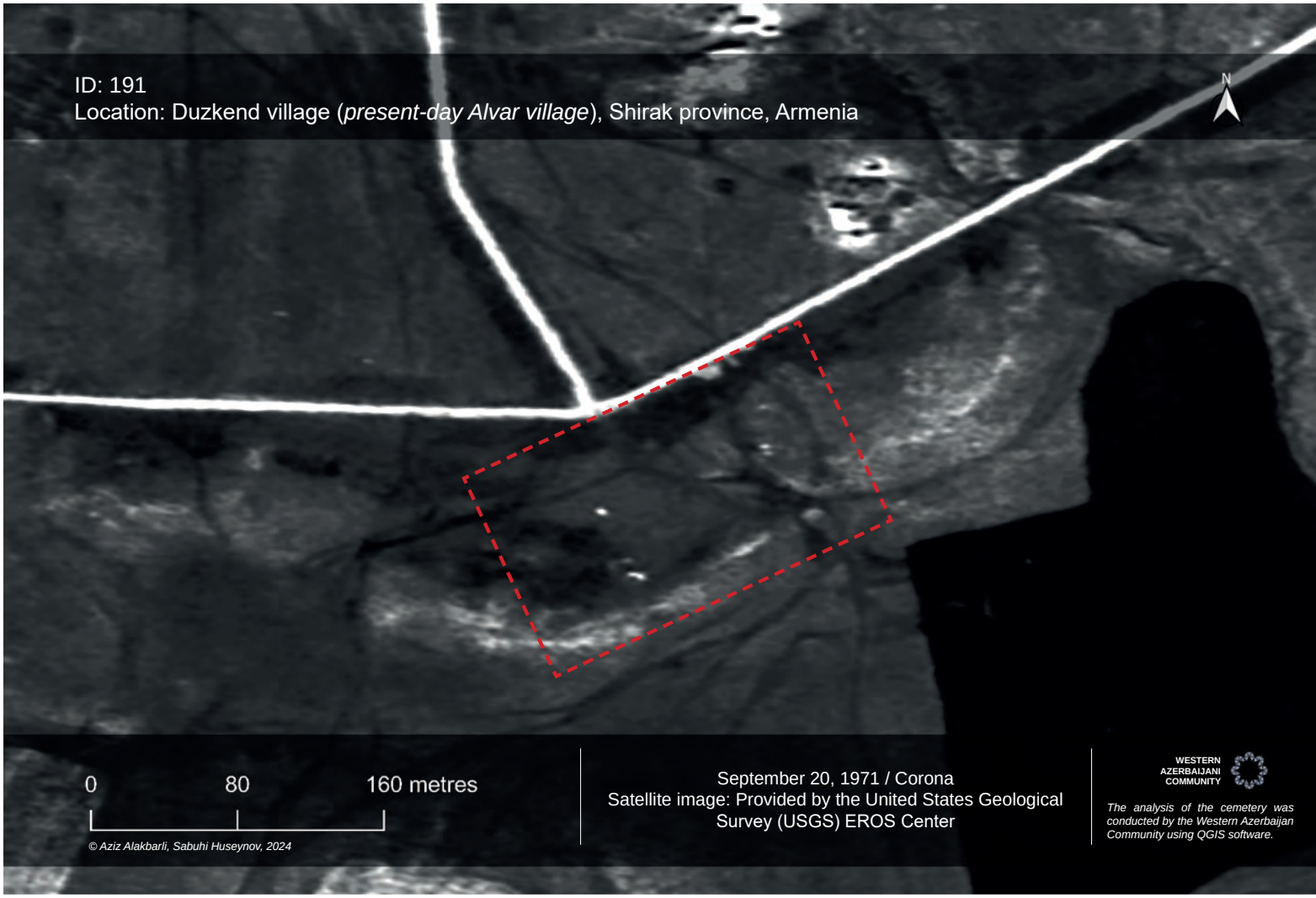
The accumulation of shattered tombstones at the edges of the site also indicates the scale of destruction. The cemetery, which extended across both sides of the road, remained unchanged as of 2015[11]. However, at some point between 2015 and 2019[12] — at a date the authors could not determine precisely — a dirt road was constructed through the center of the cemetery section on the left side of the road. The fact that the road was routed through the middle of the cemetery suggests a deliberate attempt to facilitate its obliteration. While some tombstones on the right side remained intact, the section on the left was completely obliterated. This was further confirmed by Airbus satellite imagery dated June 4, 2022[13].

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the southern part of the village and consisted of two burial sites. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1976 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 123.
2. *Kars ili ve chevresinde Ermeni Mezalimi (1918-1920),* with afterword and notes by Dr. Fahrettin Kïrzïoglu (Ankara: Kardesh Matbaasï, 1970), 44.
3. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
4. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
6. *Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 181.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
9. *Corona,1115-2154F087*, September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *WorldView-3*, July 10, 2015, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. September 14, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. June 04, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-100-V (Giullidzha) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
15. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112 (Leninakan) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 191
Location: Duzkend village (*present-day Alvar village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 191
Location: Duzkend village (*present-day Alvar village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 191
Location: Duzkend village (present-day Alvar village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 10, 2015 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

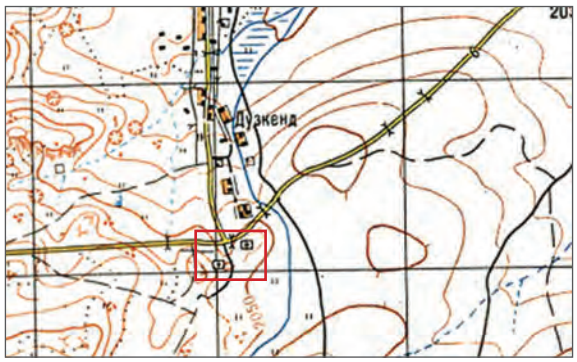
ID: 191
Location: Duzkend village (present-day Alvar village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 14, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 191
Location: Duzkend village (present-day Alvar village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 4, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

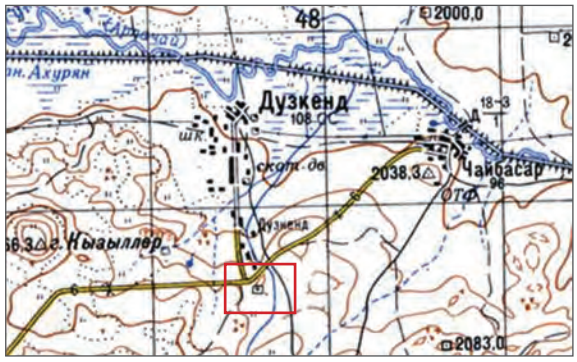
1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 2001 to 2022

Status: OBLITERATED

Ellaroyughu Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Ellaroyughu village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Lorasar village (Armenian)
ID: 162 [MC-049], 41.110225, 43.596485

Ellaroyughu was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 437 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Ellaroyughu village was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of the village was forced to flee following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1921, 222 Azerbaijanis returned to the Ellaroyughu village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[4] Subsequently, in 1930, the village was renamed Ellarkend.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 328 Azerbaijani residents[6] of Ellaroyughu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Ellarkend village was renamed Lorasar.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[9] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. However, the cemetery could not be identified based on the findings from this analysis. Consequently, due to the poor quality of the image, the authors proceeded to conduct their analysis using contemporary satellite imagery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and March 13, 2001[10] (Ikonos) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2001. The cemetery covered an area of 2.2 hectares, with severe destruction of the tombstones documented. An analysis conducted by the authors using the Ikonos satellite image identified the removal of soil by excavators over a 0.3-hectare area in the northern part of the cemetery. Traces of excavator buckets remained visible on the ground as of March 13, 2001. By that time, a total of 2.2 hectares of the cemetery area had been destroyed using bulldozers. The dense growth of vegetation in the area suggests that the destruction likely took place between 1990 and 1995.

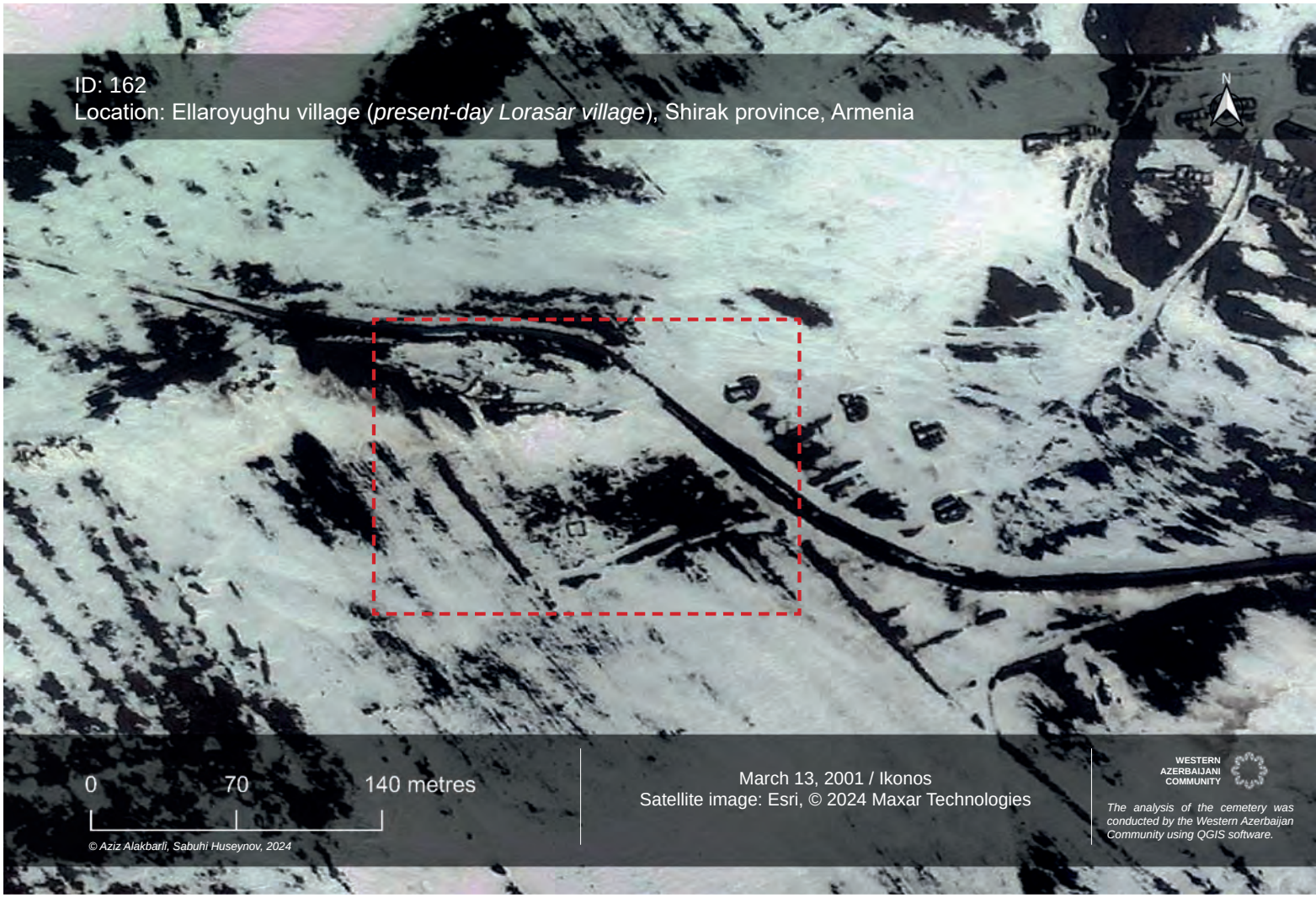
In the 2001 image, the remains of the destroyed tombstones were still visible on the ground. The authors' analysis of the Ikonos image also led them to hypothesize that the foundation of a mausoleum was present, though its ownership could not be determined. However, GeoEye-1 satellite imagery dated September 11, 2021,[11] and CNES/Airbus imagery dated June 22, 2022,[12] confirmed that the entire cemetery had been completely obliterated using heavy machinery. A few fragments of tombstones were observed in the southern part of the area.

GEOLOCATION:

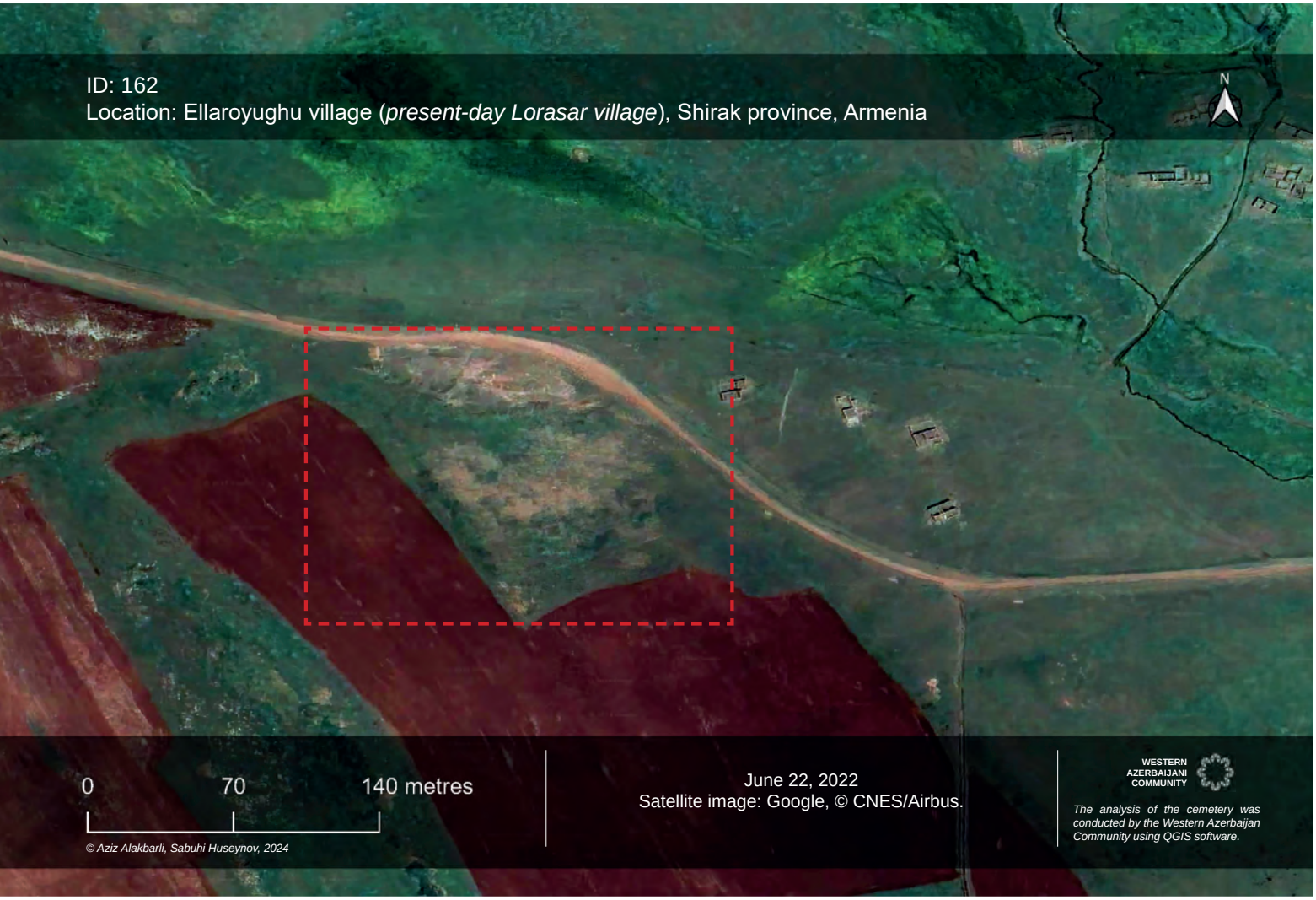
The cemetery was situated in the south-southwest of the village, along the roadside. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[13], and from 1976 at two different scales: 1:50,000[14] and 1:100,000[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Ikonos imagery dated 2001 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 213.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 189.
6. *Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
7. *Alakberli, Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï*, 189.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir*, no. 15 (995), 15 ogostosi 1991 t., Yerevan, 33.
9. *Corona, 1115-2154F086,* September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *Ikonos*, March 13, 2001, GeoEye (Ikonos) via Esri Map.
11. *GeoEye-1*, September 11, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. June 04, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100-V (*Giullidzha*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100 (*Bogdanovka*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 162
Location: Ellaroyughu village (*present-day Lorasar village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 13, 2001 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

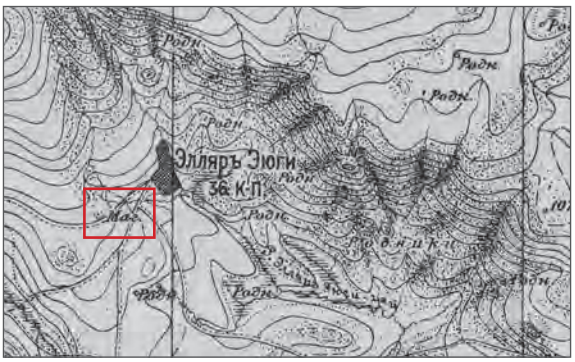
ID: 162
Location: Ellaroyughu village (*present-day Lorasar village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 11, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 162
Location: Ellaroyughu village (*present-day Lorasar village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 22, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

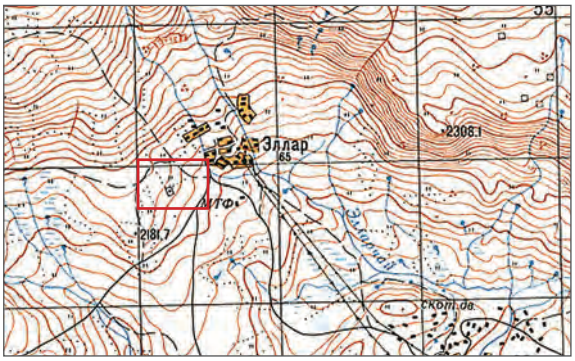
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



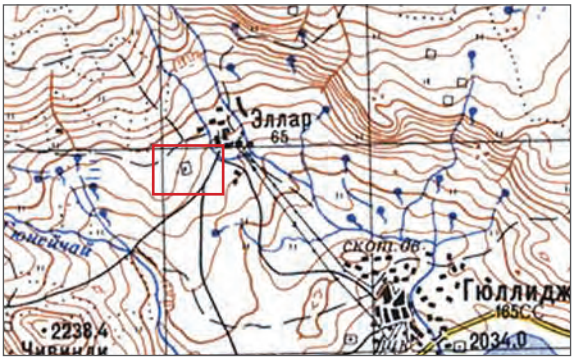
1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

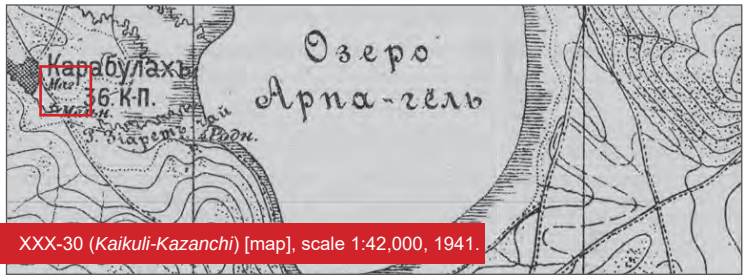
© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2003

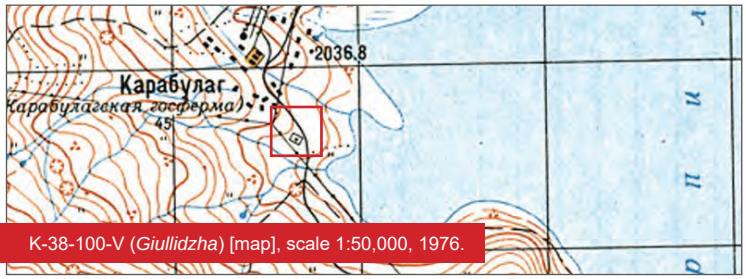
Status: OBLITERATED

Garabulag Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Garabulag village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Shaghik village (Armenian)
ID: 198 [MC-052], 41.043942, 43.591339



XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.



K-38-100-V (*Giullidzha*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.

Garabulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 382 Azerbaijani residents (referred to as *"Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Garabulag was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. From March 19 to 20, 1920, the population of Garabulag was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] On December 2, 1920, the advancing Turkish army once again cleared Kars and the Aghbaba region of Armenian occupiers.[3]

Upon receiving the news that, according to the Treaty of Kars,[4] the territory would be ceded to the Armenian SSR, the majority of the village's population, unwilling to live under the Armenian SSR, left the village by March 25, 1921, and settled in the village of Bashgedik in the Kars province of present-day Turkiye. A portion of the village's population, however, returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled. In 1931, 179 Azerbaijanis lived in Garabulag village.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 293 Azerbaijani residents[6] of Garabulag took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garabulag village was renamed Shaghik.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.8 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern.

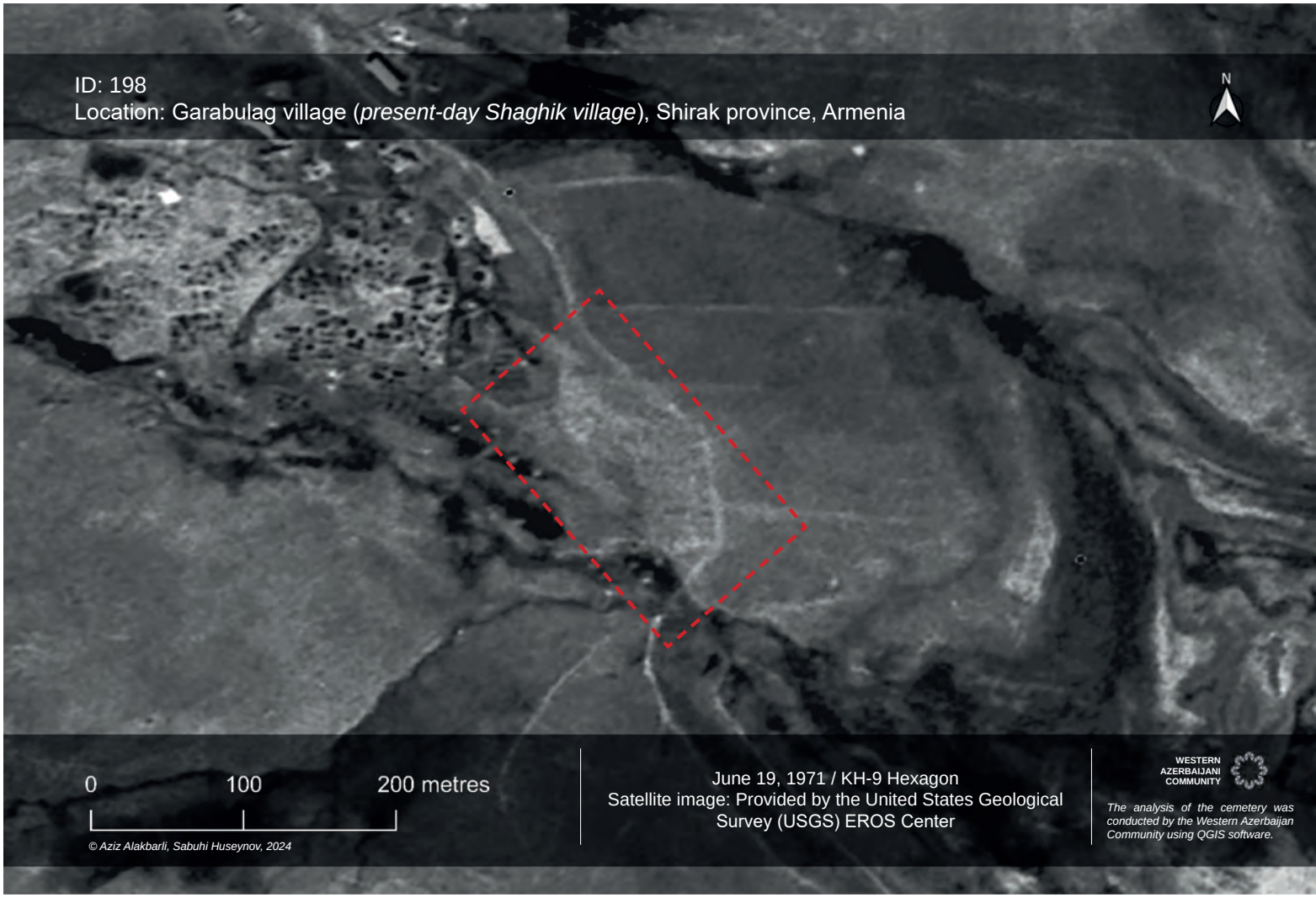
A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 17, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2001.

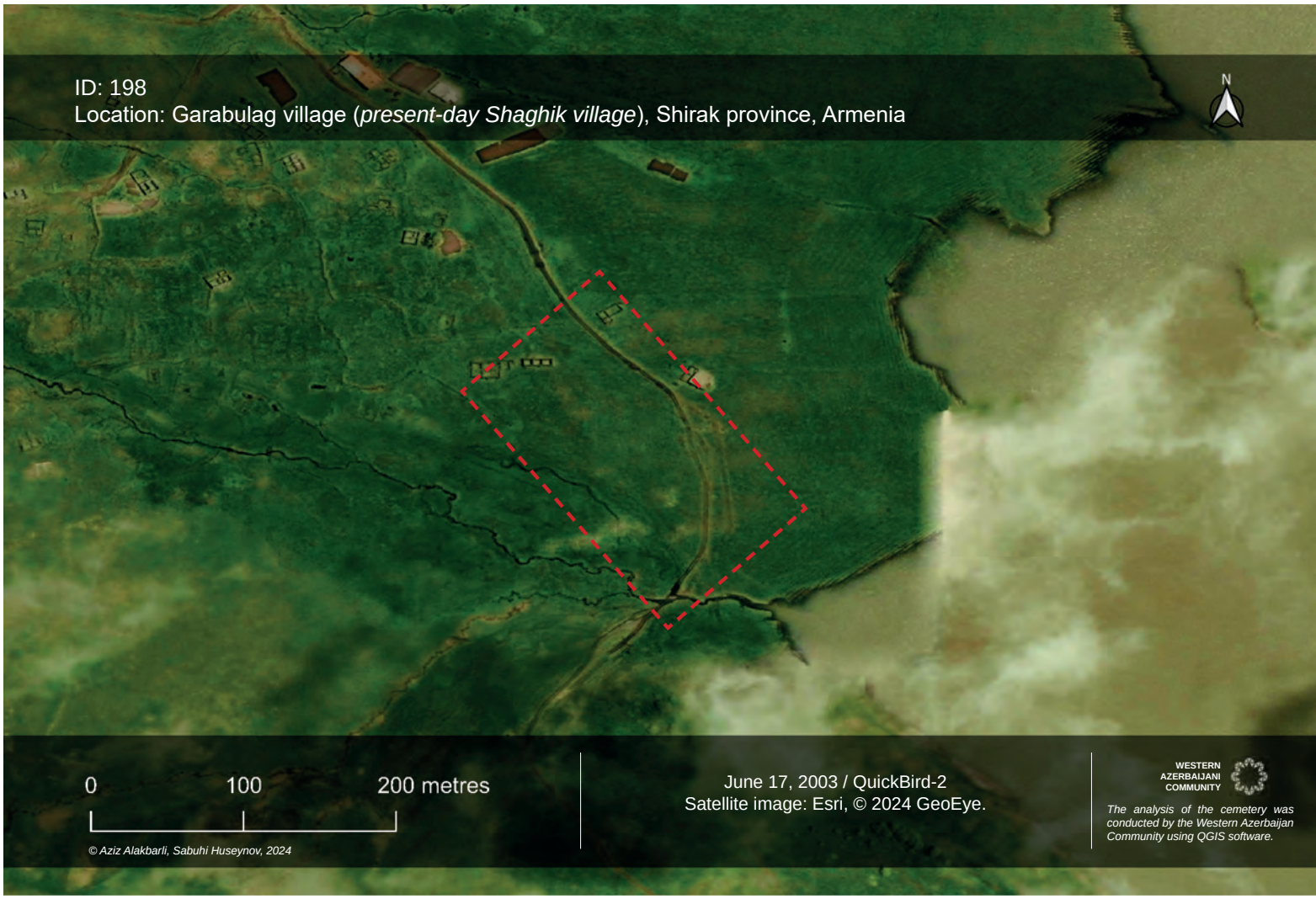
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located southeast of the Garabulag farm. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1941 (1:42,000 scale)[11] and 1976 (1:50,000[12] and 1:100,000 scales[13]). Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Hexagon imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 133.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Turk İstiklal Harbi. III Jilt: Doghu Jephesi (1919–1921) (Ankara: Genel Kurmay Bashkanlïghï, 1995),* 81.
4. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 102-103.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 192.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 17, 2003, GeoEye via Esri Map.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100-V *(Giullidzha)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100 *(Bogdanovka)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 198
Location: Garabulag village (*present-day Shaghik village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 198
Location: Garabulag village (*present-day Shaghik village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 17, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 GeoEye.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Garachanta Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Garachanta village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Aregnadem village (Armenian)
ID: 021 [MC-007], 40.9252301, 43.753721

Garachanta was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. The village was originally known as *Garachalma*. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 729 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Garachanta was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. From March 19 to 20, 1920, the population of Garachanta was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] In 1931, 547 Azerbaijanis lived in Garachanta village.[4] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated May 4, 1939, Garachanta was renamed Azizbeyov.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 1,600 Azerbaijani residents[6] of Garachanta village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garachanta village was renamed Aregnadem.[8]

Prior to the deportation of the village inhabitants, the local cemetery served as a significant religious site for the region. Within the Garachanta cemetery stood a mausoleum known as the Hearth of Sayyid Mahammad, a revered site of spiritual devotion for the local population.[9] According to witness accounts, the mausoleum measured 2 meters in height and 3 meters in length by 2 meters in width. Its entrance faced the qibla, and its walls featured niches designed for lighting candles.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2.66 hectares, with tombstones, as well as Sayyid Mahammad's mausoleum in its central part. However, by this date, the mausoleum had remained in an incomplete state. The cemetery area was enclosed by a fence.

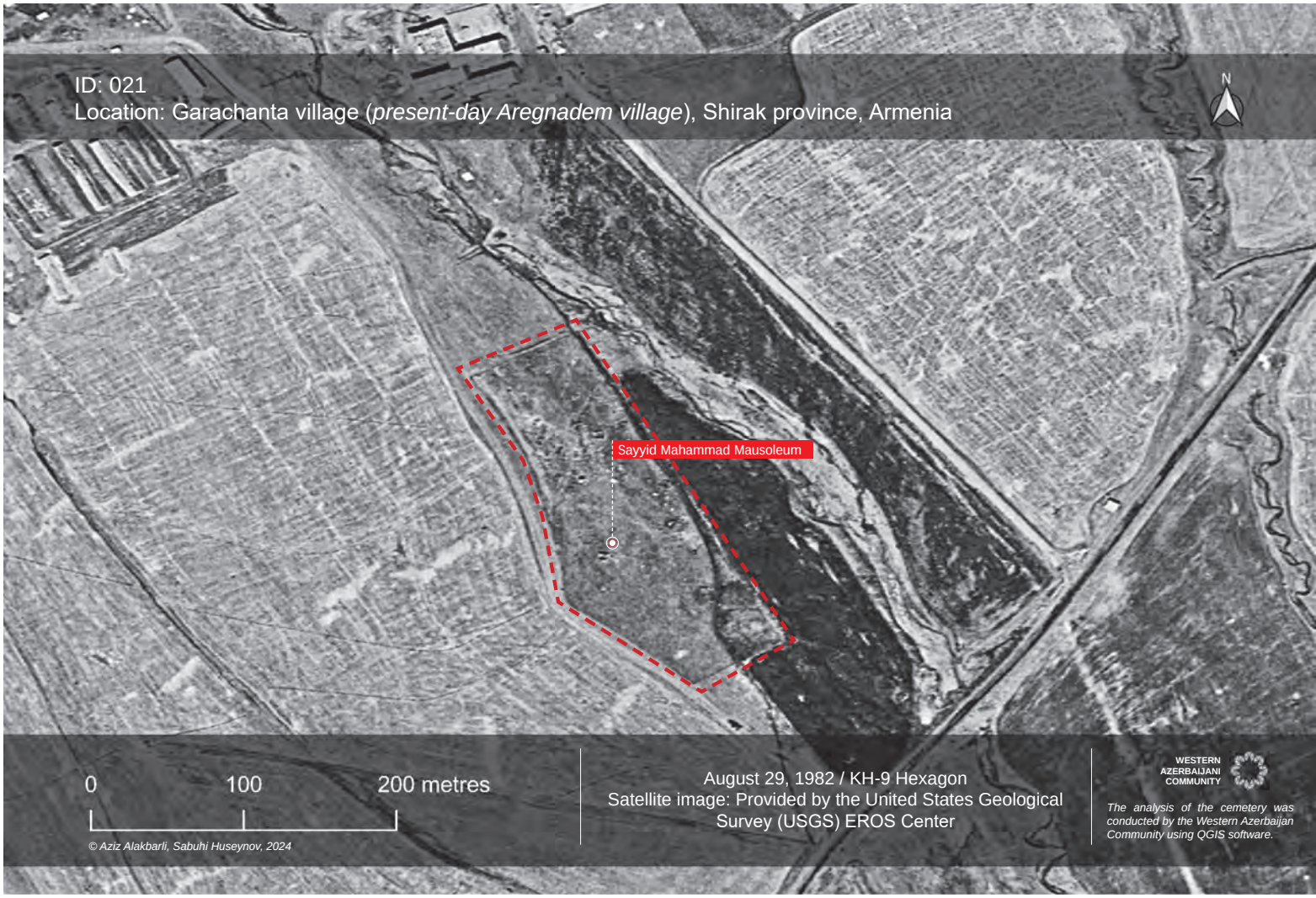
A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2003[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. Traces of heavy machinery were detected within the area. It is likely that the machinery used the cemetery grounds as a passage to access the nearby farmland. By 2003, only the walls of Sayyid Mahammad's mausoleum, standing slightly over one meter in height, remained. Photographs from 2023 reveal that, aside from a few tombstones, the entire cemetery had been completely destroyed (Images Nos. 1-5). The mausoleum, located at the center of the cemetery, had only remnants of walls standing at approximately 1 to 1.5 meters in height.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated southwest of the village, on an elevated area to the left of the road leading to the village. This site is marked on Soviet military-topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[12] and 1984 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1984 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 136.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104-105.
5. Armianskaia SSR, *Administrativno-territorial'noe delenie na 1-e marta 1964 goda.* 3rd ed. Erevan: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo Armenii, 1964, 195.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 12.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlar'ïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 176.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
9. Aslan Bayramov, *Qädim Oghuz ellärinin—Aghbaba, Shoräyel vä Pämbäk bolgälärinin yer-yurd adlarï (toponimläri)* (Baku: 2003), 207.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F010*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. QuickBird-2, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoi Armii, XXXI-30 (*Giulli-bulag*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112-V (*Siuregel'*) [map], sclae 1:50,000, 1984.


ID: 021
Location: Garachanta village (*present-day Aregnadem village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Sayyid Mahammad Mausoleum
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

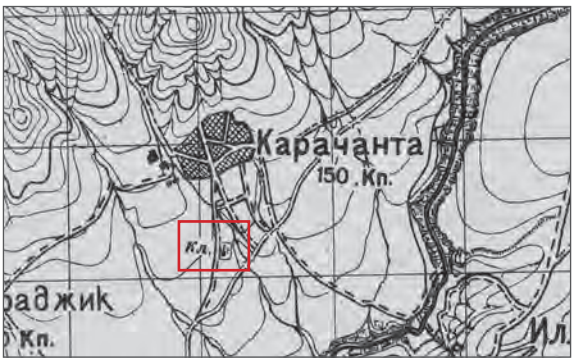
ID: 021
Location: Garachanta village (*present-day Aregnadem village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Ruins of Sayyid Mahammad Mausoleum
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 021
Location: Garachanta village (*present-day Aregnadem village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Ruins of Sayyid Mahammad Mausoleum
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 29, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

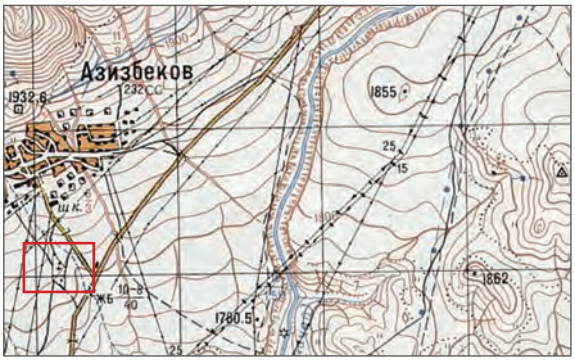
1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



1984

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1984 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

© Bnakavayr, 2024

Garanamaz Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Garanamaz village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Aghvorik village (Armenian)
ID: 133 [MC-046], 41.075076, 43.759765

Garanamaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 541 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

In April 1918, the armed units of Andranik, upon entering the city of Gyumri, carried out massacres in Garanamaz village along with several other villages in the region while advancing toward Akhalkalaki on April 18. The surviving villagers were forced to flee their village. However, after Andranik's forces were defeated by the Ottoman army, they were forced to retreat from the region.[2] With the arrival of Ottoman troops, the displaced population returned and resettled. Following the Armistice of Mudros, under Article 11 of the treaty, the defeated Ottoman Empire was required to withdraw its forces from the region by November 1918. From December 1918 to April 1919, the village was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On February 7, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, resulting in the massacre of 17 children, six women, and four men. The surviving inhabitants were forced to abandon the village. Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR and the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye (TBMM), the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1921, 476 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resumed their lives.[4] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Garanamaz village was renamed Yeniyol.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 880 Azerbaijani residents of Garanamaz village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garanamaz village was renamed Aghvorik.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.9 hectares, enclosed by a fence, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[8] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis confirmed that 1.5 hectares of the cemetery remained fenced. This is smaller than the area recorded in the 1971 image. However, an examination of both satellite imagery indicates that, with the exception of 0.35 hectares, the cemetery remained largely undisturbed after the Azerbaijani population was forced to leave the village.

A comparative analysis of the imagery dated 2003 (Quickbird-2) and October 13, 2023,[9] (Airbus) as well as photographic and video evidence obtained from the cemetery further supports this finding, showing that, aside from some acts of vandalism, the tombstones have remained largely undisturbed to the present day (Images Nos. 1-4).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated on the right side of the road leading from Gollu village, south-southwest of Garanamaz village. This site was marked on a Soviet military-topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[10]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 135.
2. *"Zarushad, Chïldïr, Aghbaba ve Shuregel`e baghlï koylerde ermenilerje yapïlan soykïrïïm," Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkazlar`da ve Anadolu`da ermeni mezalimi, III. jilt, (1920-1922)* (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1997), 97-100; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/18.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104-105.
5. Postanovlenie prezidiuma Tsentral'nogo ispolnitel'nogo komiteta SSR Armenii, 3 yanvarya 1935 g., *Gazeta "Kommunist"*, Erivan, 5 yanvarya 1935 g., №5 (146), 3.
6. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
7. *Corona, DS1115-2154DA094*, September 20,1971. USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird*-2, August 10, 2003. Maxar via Google Earth.
9. October 13, 2023. Airbus via Google Earth.
10. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.

ID: 133
Location: Garanamaz village (*present-day Aghvorik village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

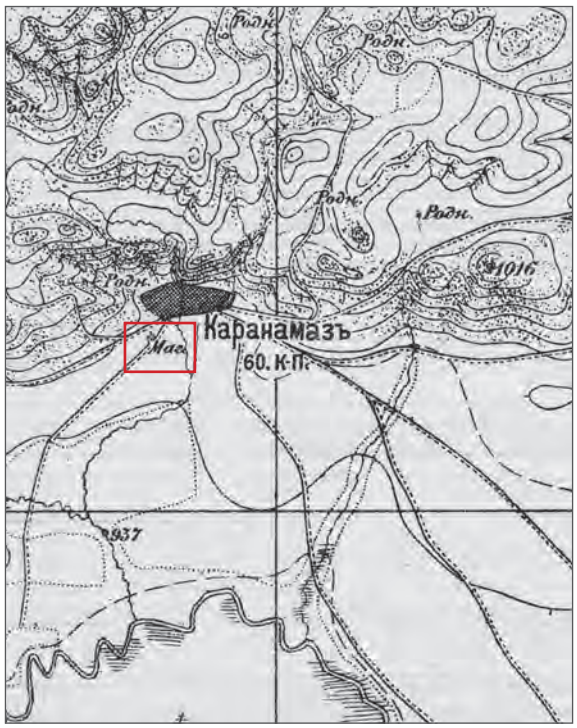
ID: 133
Location: Garanamaz village (*present-day Aghvorik village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 133
Location: Garanamaz village (*present-day Aghvorik village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 13, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

© Bnakavayr, 2024

2

3

4

© Bnakavayr, 2024

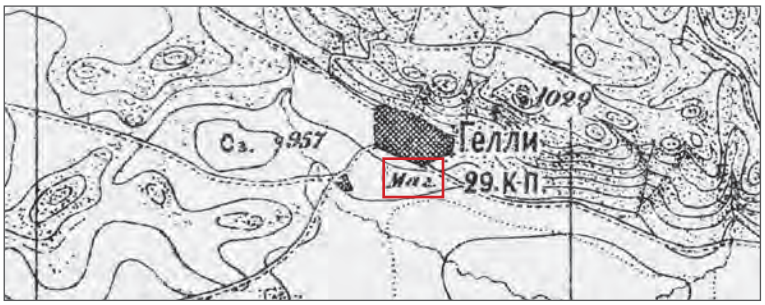
© Aniarc, 2015

From 1989 to 2003

Status: DESTROYED

Gollu Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Gollu village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Ardenis village (Armenian)
ID: 134 [MC-047], 41.075970, 43.72669



Gollu was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, on the bank of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 403 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Gollu was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of Gollu was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1921, 242 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[4]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 760 Azerbaijani residents[5] of Gollu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gollu village was renamed Ardenis.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.4 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that the cemetery underwent systematic destruction between 1989 and 2003. However, a section of its northern perimeter fence remained intact, covering an area of 1.4 hectares.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and 2019[10] revealed that the cemetery remained largely unchanged during this period.

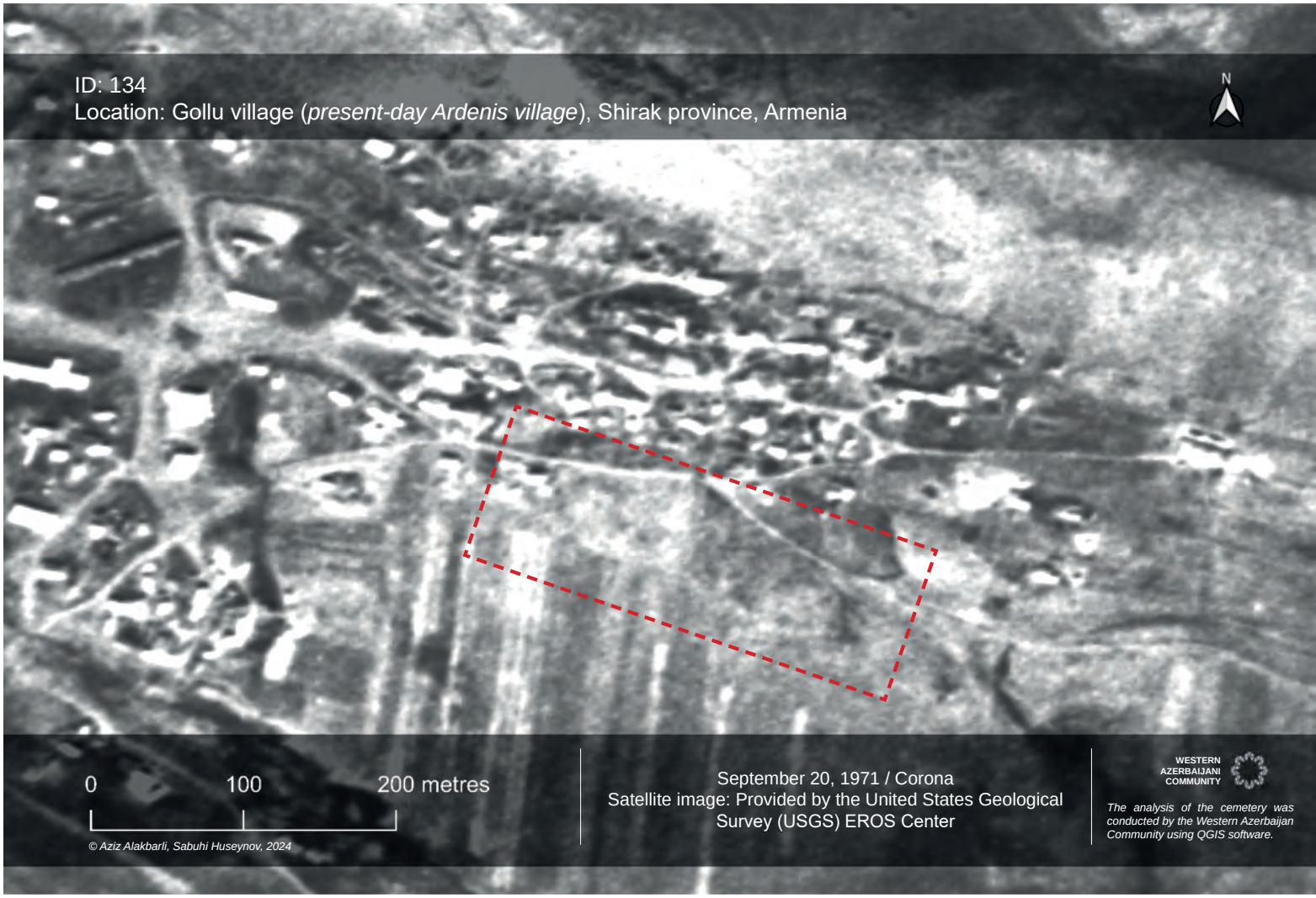
Tombstones were identified in the southwestern section of the cemetery. Although photographic evidence from 2021 suggests that the great majority of headstones in the village cemetery were still standing, extensive signs of vandalism were documented on tombstones. These included severe structural damage to tombstones, as well as their deliberate destruction and fragmentation (Images Nos. 1-6).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the south-southwest of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 109.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbaijan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
5. *Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 12.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 183.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
8. *Corona, DS1115-2154DF087,* September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003. Maxar via Google Earth.
10. October 16, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.


ID: 134
Location: Gollu village (*present-day Ardenis village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 134
Location: Gollu village (*present-day Ardenis village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 134
Location: Gollu village (*present-day Ardenis village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 16, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

2

3

4

5

6

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2008

Status: DESTROYED

Gullubulag Village New Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Gullubulag village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Byurakn village (Armenian)
ID: 057 [MC-149], 40.865253, 43.710947

Gullubulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Shorayel region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. The village was also known as Karapapakh Gullubulaghi. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,137 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Gullubulag was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. In the early days of March 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, resulting in the destruction of 300 houses.[2] The surviving population was forced to flee the village, seeking refuge in the Kaghizman district of Kars province, present-day Turkiye.[3] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[4] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1921, 791 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5] During the Soviet era, Gullubulag was considered the largest Azerbaijani-populated village in the Amasiya district.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 2,875 Azerbaijani residents[6] of the village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Gullubulag village was renamed Byurakn.

The new cemetery in Gullubulag was established between 1938 and 1940. The cemetery contained a mausoleum that housed the graves of Sayyid Mukhtar Agha and his wife, Leyli Nene. The mausoleum was built by Sayyid Mukhtar Agha's grandson, Sayyid Rza, and the village community.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.7 hectares, with tombstones and mausoleums identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 18, 2011[10] (Ikonos) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2011. To refine the timeframe and determine a more precise period of destruction, the authors analyzed video footage dated July 18, 2008. The analysis of the footage revealed that, by 2008, many tombstones in the cemetery had been broken, headstones had been toppled, and the images of the deceased on the stones had been defaced. However, the majority of the tombstones were still standing at that time.

The authors identified destruction of the mausoleum at the center of the cemetery in the Hexagon image, but determined that the overall layout is still preserved.

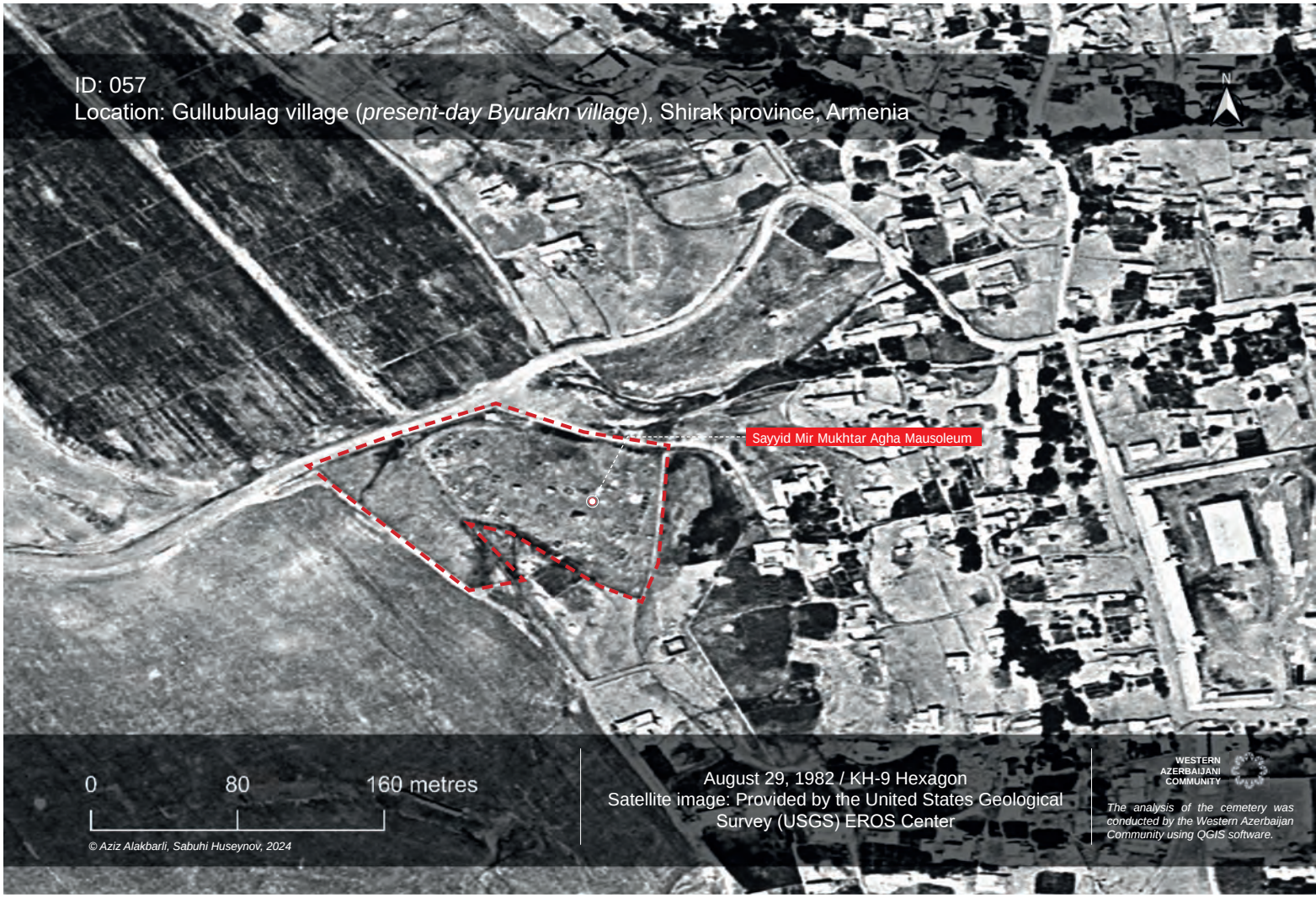
A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 (Ikonos) and August 21, 2021[11] (GeoEye-1) revealed that a new dirt road had been constructed through the middle of the cemetery, while the rest of the area remained unchanged.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the west of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1983 (1:50,000 scale)[12] and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1982 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1982 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 114.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.; "Shuragel ve Zarushad kazalarïnda Ermeniler tarafïndan yapïlan mezalim", *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni mezalimi*, IV. jilt (1920-1922) (Ankara: Osmanli Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 19-21; original source: BOA, HR.SYS 2878/55.
3. "Zarushad, Chïldïr, Aghbaba ve Shuregel`e baghlï koylerde ermenilerje yapïlan soykïrïïm," *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkazlar`da ve Anadolu`da ermeni mezalimi*, III. jilt, (1919-1920) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1997), 97-100; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/18.
4. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 172.
8. *Verbal account by Alasker Mammadov, a resident of Gullubulg village, Amasiya district.*
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *Ikonos*, August 18, 2011, GeoEye via Esri Map.
11. *GeoEye-1*, August 21, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112-A (*Giullibulag*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 057
Location: Gullubulag village (*present-day Byurakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Sayyid Mir Mukhtar Agha Mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

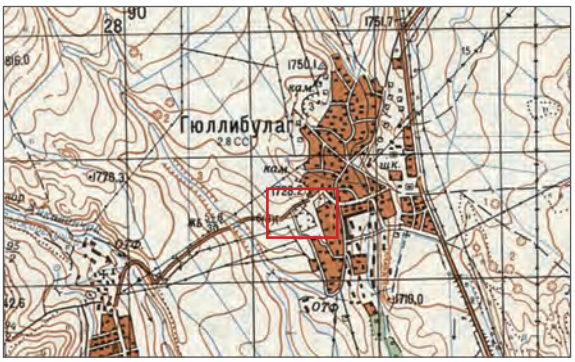
ID: 057
Location: Gullubulag village (*present-day Byurakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Ruins of Sayyid Mir Mukhtar Agha's mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 18, 2011 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 GeoEye.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 057
Location: Gullubulag village (*present-day Byurakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 21, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

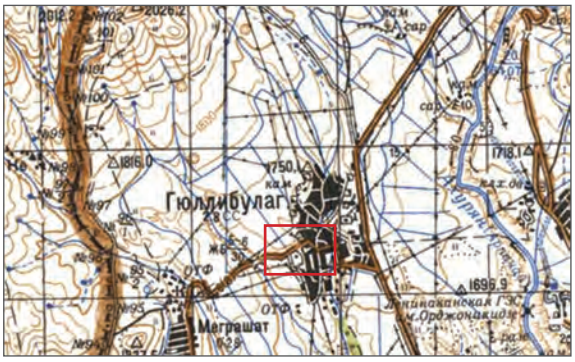
1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

© Bnakavayr, 2024

© CBC TV Azerbaijan, 2024

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Gullubulag Village Old Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Gullubulag village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Byurakn village (Armenian)
ID: 079 [MC-570], 40.8662904, 43.7113307

Gullubulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Shorayel region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. The village was also known as Garapapag Gullubulagi. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,137 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Gullubulag was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. In the early days of March 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, resulting in the destruction of 300 houses.[2] The surviving population was forced to flee the village, seeking refuge in the Kaghizman district of Kars province, present-day Turkiye.[3] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[4] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1921, 791 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5] During the Soviet era, Gullubulag was considered the largest Azerbaijani-populated village in Amasiya district.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 2,875 Azerbaijani residents[6] of the village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Gullubulag village was renamed Byurakn.

The old cemetery of Gullubulag was established approximately in the late 18th century. The mausoleum of Sayyid Mir Bagir Agha, a descendant of Muhammad ibn Ali al-Baghir, the fifth Imam of Shia Islam, was also located within the cemetery. The mausoleum also housed the tomb of Sayyid Abdulla Agha, a descendant of Musa ibn Ja'far al-Kazim, the seventh Imam. According to village residents, near Sayyid Abdulla Agha's tomb, there was also a separate mausoleum made of glass, which commemorated his grandson. The old cemetery of Gullubulag was a sacred site and a place of veneration for the inhabitants of nearby villages.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.838 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous surface pattern. The analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. Based on the Hexagon image, the authors identified the mausoleum of Sayyid Mir Bagir Agha in the center of the cemetery, along with the mausoleum of Sayyid Abdulla Agha's grandson nearby. A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 18, 2011[10] (Ikonos) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2009.

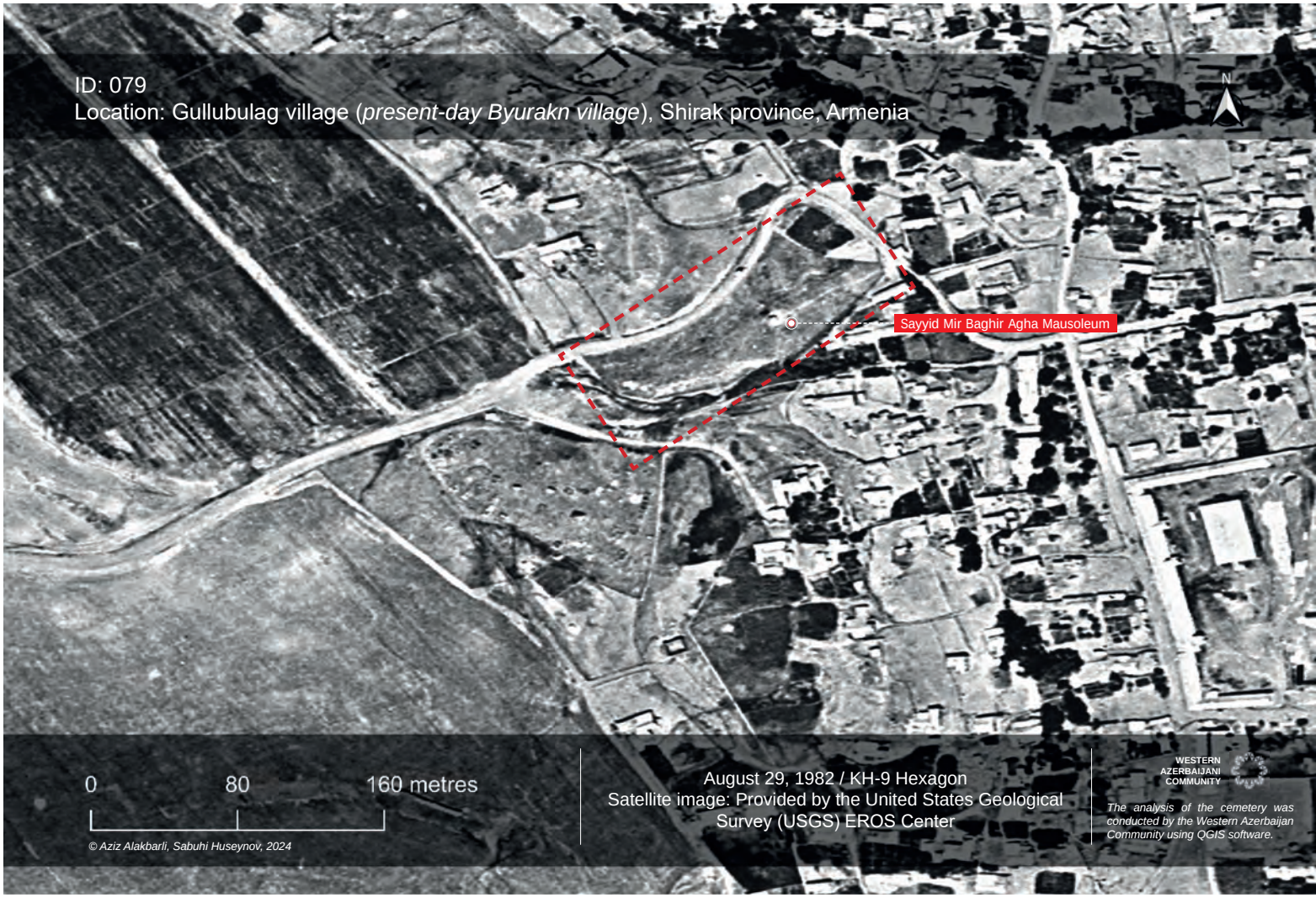
A comparative analysis of satellite imagery confirmed that the mausoleums of both Sayyid Mir Bagir Agha and Sayyid Abdulla Agha's grandson had been completely destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

The old cemetery of Gullubulag village is situated on a high hill in the western part of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1941 (1:42,000 scale)[11], 1983 (1:50,000 scale)[12], and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 114.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.; "Shuragel ve Zarushad kazalarïnda Ermeniler tarafïndan yapïlan mezalim", *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni mezalimi*, IV. jilt (1920-1922) (Ankara: Osmanli Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 19-21; original source: BOA, HR.SYS 2878/55.
3. "Zarushad, Chïldïr, Aghbaba ve Shuregel`e baghlï koylerde ermenilerje yapïlan soykïrïïm," A*rshiv belgelerine gore Kafkazlar`da ve Anadolu`da ermeni mezalimi*, III. jilt, (1919-1920) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1997), 97-100; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/18.
4. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 172.
8. *Verbal account by Alasker Mammadov, a resident of Gullubulg village, Amasiya district.*
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. Ikonos, August 18, 2011, GeoEye via Esri Map.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoi Armii, XXXI-30 (*Giulli-bulag*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112-A (*Giullibulag*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 079
Location: Gullubulag village (*present-day Byurakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Sayyid Mir Baghir Agha Mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 079
Location: Gullubulag village (*present-day Byurakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Ruins of Sayyid Mir Baghir Agha Mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 18, 2011 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 GeoEye.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 079
Location: Gullubulag village (*present-day Byurakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 21, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

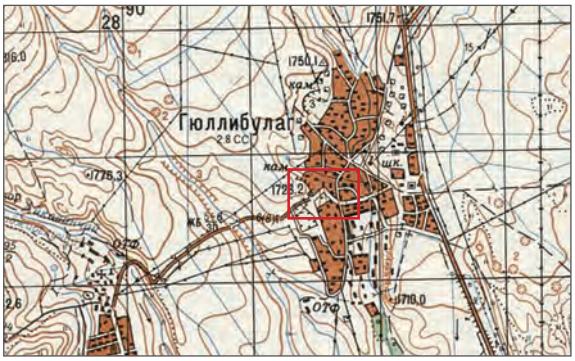
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

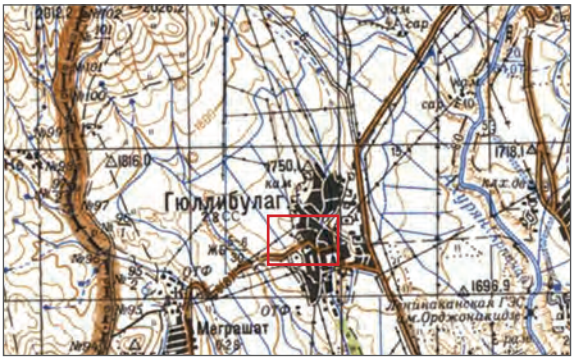
1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

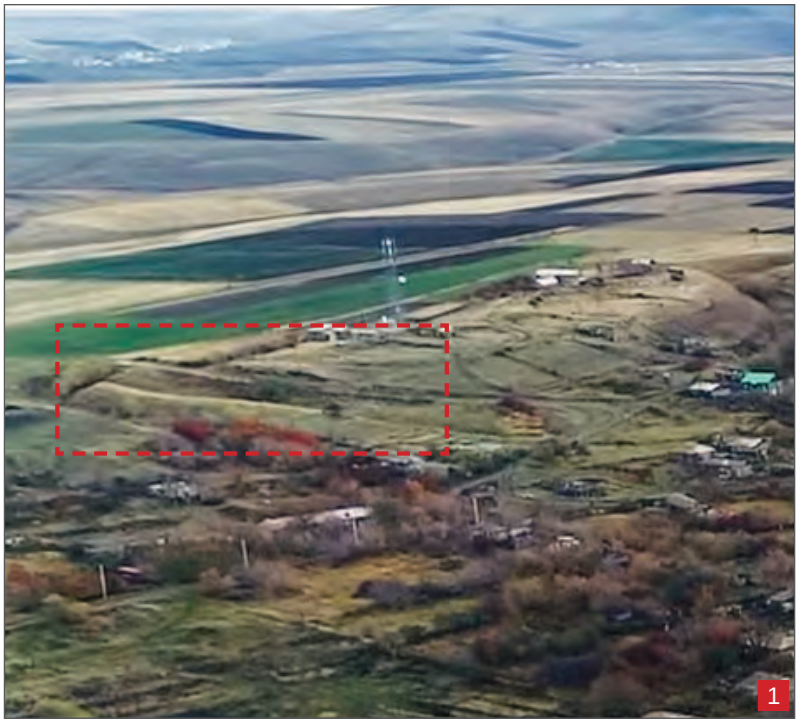


1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:



© Yerkir Media, 2023

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Gulluja Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Gulluja village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Tsaghkut village (Armenian)
ID: 161 [MC-048], 41.094868,43.614441

Gulluja was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. It was considered one of ancient Azerbaijani villages of the region. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 378 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Gulluja was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of Gulluja was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye. In 1922, 517 Azerbaijanis lived in Gulluja village.[4]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 920 Azerbaijani residents[5] of Gulluja village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[6]

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Gulluja village was renamed Tsaghkut.[7]

Within the village cemetery, the mausoleum of Sayyid Alasgar oglu Sayyid Aghaali once stood, along with the mausoleums built over the tombs of Sayyid Ibrahim and his sister, Sayyida Saadat Khanim.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

In the Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971,[8] the cemetery is not clearly visible. Although tombstones cannot be discerned, the presence of a patchy surface suggests some degree of heterogeneity in the area. The earliest high-resolution modern satellite imagery available dates to 19 years after the Azerbaijani population left the village. This image, captured by the Spot 5 satellite on January 15, 2007,[9] confirms that by this time, the cemetery had already suffered destruction. Low-quality video footage also exists, indicating that the destruction occurred between 1989 and 2000. However, analysis of the Spot 5 satellite image suggests that by this point, the structure of the Gulluja cemetery had been completely destroyed, with its main area for tombstones cleared. Approximately 61–90% of the site had been leveled and repurposed as agricultural land. A subsequent satellite image, captured by Spot 6 on October 16, 2019,[10] reveals remnants of the former cemetery within cultivated fields. Two distinct sections remain visible: a few tombstones in the eastern part and five graves in the central part of the site.

The mausoleums commemorating the Sayyids were completely destroyed. However, remnants of one, located at the center of the cemetery, are still visible in a ruined condition.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2019 (Spot 6) and 2021[11] (GeoEye-1), as well as photographs of the area (*Images Nos. 1-3*) identified tombstone fragments scattered across a *0.23-hectare area*.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the west of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[12], and from 1976 at two different scales: 1:50,000[13] and 1:100,000[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 114.
2. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
5. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 188.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir*, no. 15 (995), 15 ogostosi 1991 t., Yerevan, 33.
8. *Corona,1115-2154F086*, September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. Spot 5, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
10. October 16, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
11. GeoEye-1, September 11, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100-V *(Giullidzha)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100 *(Bogdanovka)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 161
Location: Gulluja village (*present-day Tsaghkut village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

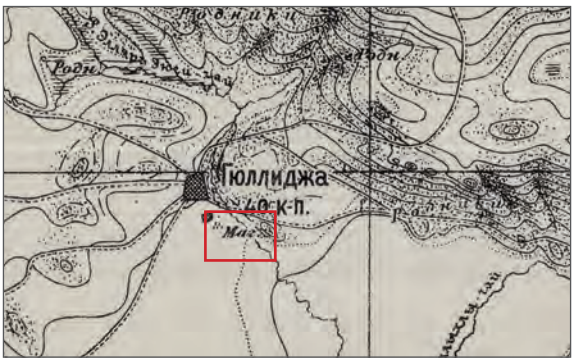
ID: 161
Location: Gulluja village (*present-day Tsaghkut village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 16, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 161
Location: Gulluja village (*present-day Tsaghkut village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 11, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

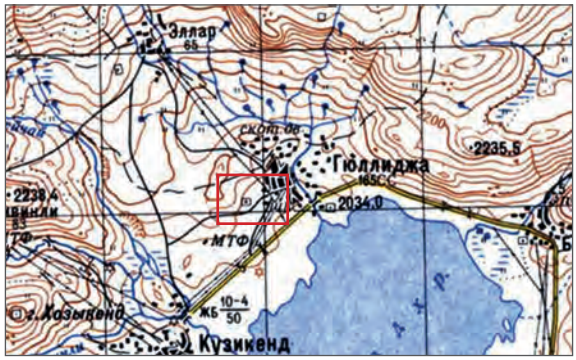


1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Gonjali Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Gonjali village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Zarishat village (Armenian)
ID: 199 [MC-041], 40.992898, 43.662294

Gonjali was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956.

According to the Treaty of Batum signed on June 4, 1918, Gonjali village was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire as part of the Aghbaba region. However, under the terms of the Armistice of Mudros signed on October 30, 1918, Ottoman forces were compelled to withdraw from the entire South Caucasus, including the Aghbaba region. Subsequently, from December 1918 to April 1919, the village was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. From March 19 to 20, 1920, the population of Gonjali was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[1] On December 2, 1920, the advancing Turkish army once again cleared Kars and the Aghbaba region of Armenian occupiers. In 1921, 95 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] From that period onward, part of the population did not return and instead settled in the territories of present-day Turkiye.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 236 Azerbaijani residents[4] of Gonjali village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gonjali village was renamed Zarishat.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis revealed tombstones with a heterogenous surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[8] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings reveal that the cemetery suffered significant destruction between 1989 and 2003. Comparative imagery confirmed that tombstones had been destroyed, the cemetery's integrity had been disrupted, and its appearance had drastically changed from its original state.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 (QuickBird-2) and July 10, 2015[9] (WorldView-3) confirmed that even more severe destruction occurred during this period. By this time, many tombstones had been damaged, while numerous others had disappeared entirely. The 2015 image showed that a large portion of the cemetery had been obliterated.

Further analysis of GeoEye-1 satellite imagery dated July 13, 2023[10] revealed that the cemetery had been obliterated. While a few remaining grave slabs were identified, the overall structure of the cemetery no longer existed. This confirms that the site has been erased both physically and as a piece of cultural heritage.

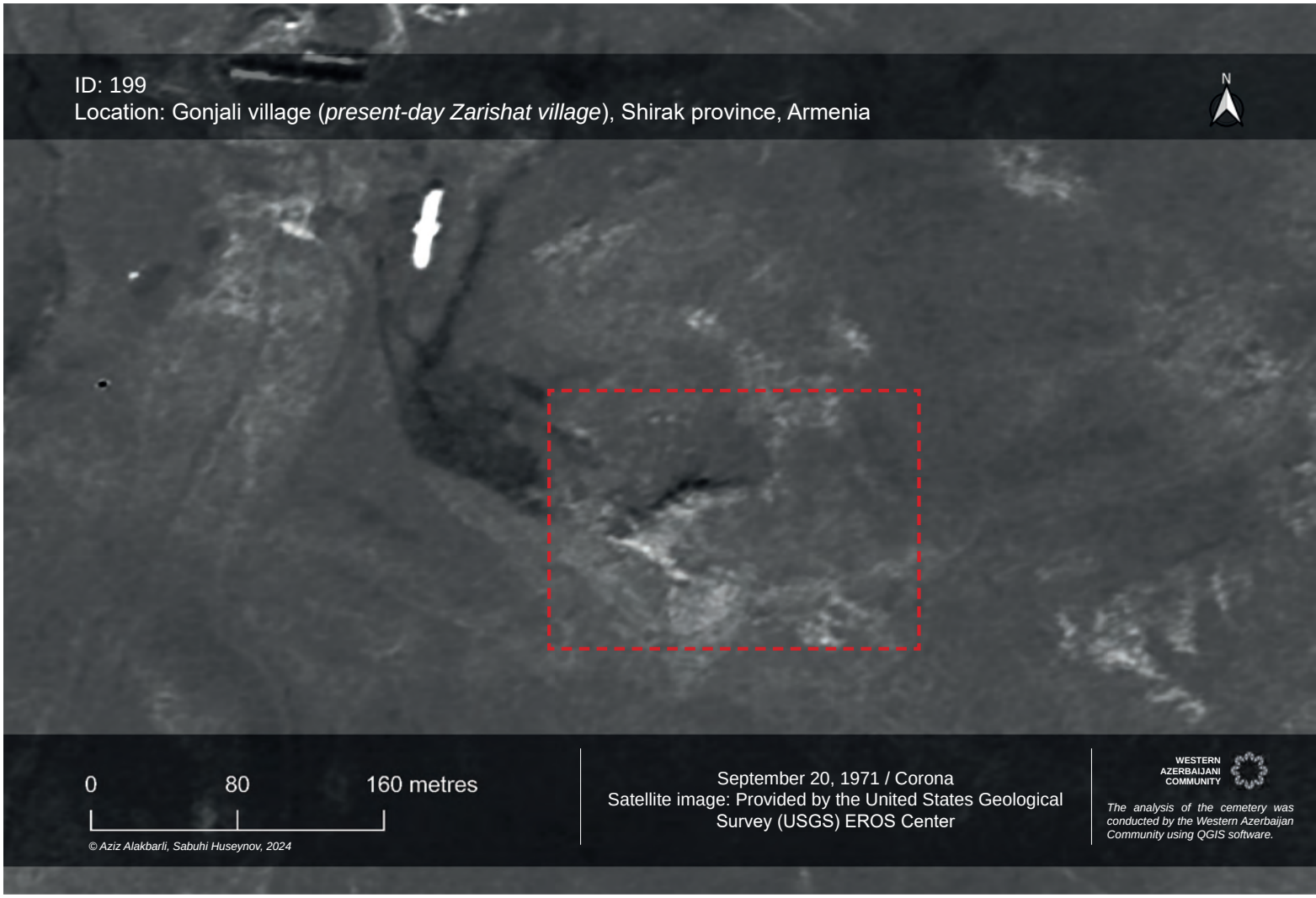
Satellite imagery analysis demonstrates that the cemetery has suffered extensive destruction over the years and has been nearly completely obliterated. Once fully intact in 1971, it had entirely disappeared by 2023. These events raise serious concerns about the preservation of cultural and historical heritage in this area.

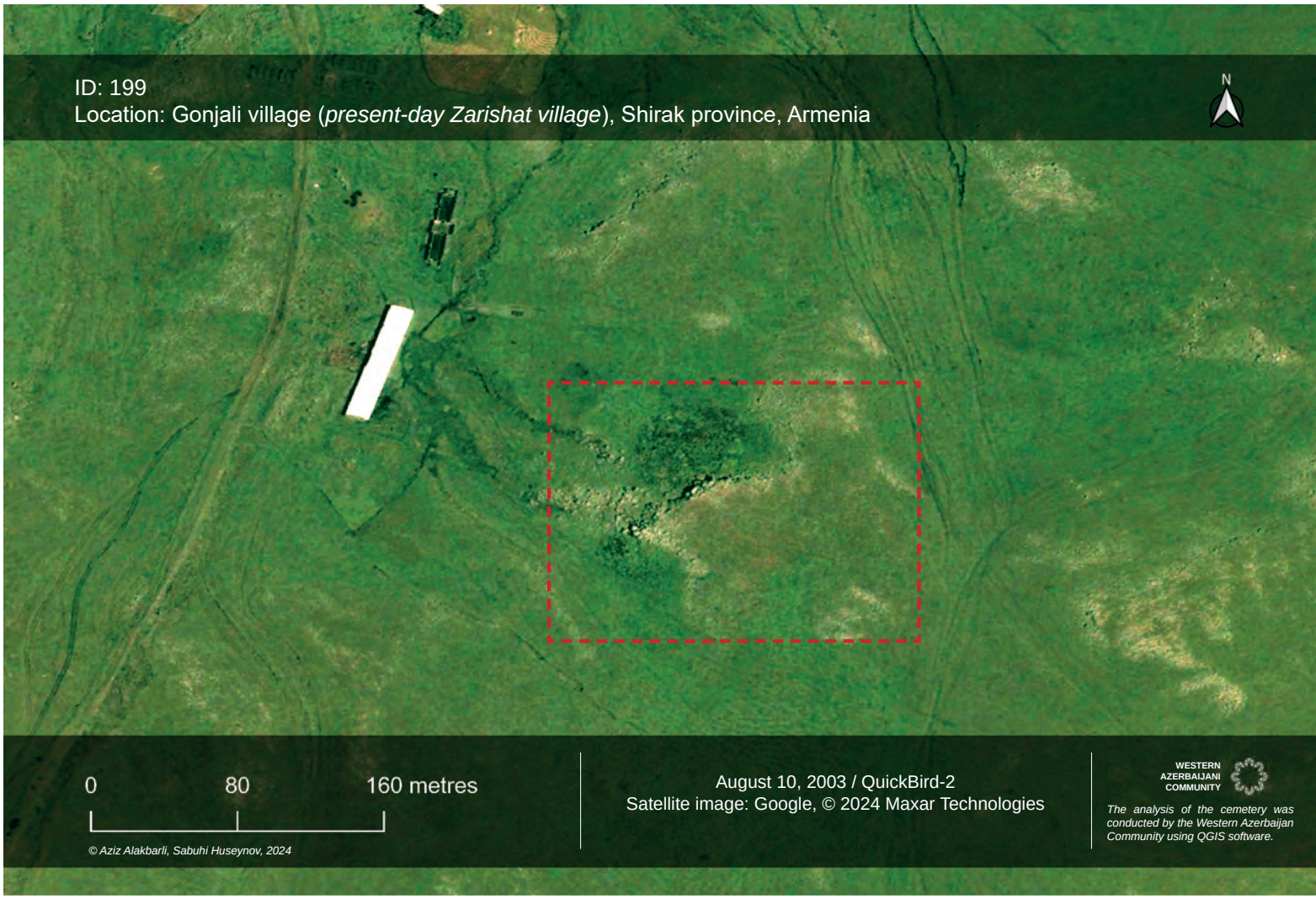
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located southeast of Gonjali village, at an elevation of 2,116 meters above sea level. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1941 (1:42,000 scale)[11], 1983 (1:50,000 scale)[12], and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Report of the Special Representative of the Kars District Ismail Nazaraliyev to the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic, February 19, 1920, RGASPI, f. 544, op. 3, d. 20, ll. 31–34, 36–37.
2. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 13.
5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 179.
6. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
7. *Corona, 1115-2154F087*, September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
9. *WorldView-3*, July 10, 2015, Maxar via Esri Map.
10. GeoEye-1, July 13, 2023, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. General'nyï Shtab Krasnoi Armii, XXXI-30 (*Giulli-bulag*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.
12. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112-A (*Giullibulag*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 199
Location: Gonjali village (*present-day Zarishat village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 199
Location: Gonjali village (*present-day Zarishat village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

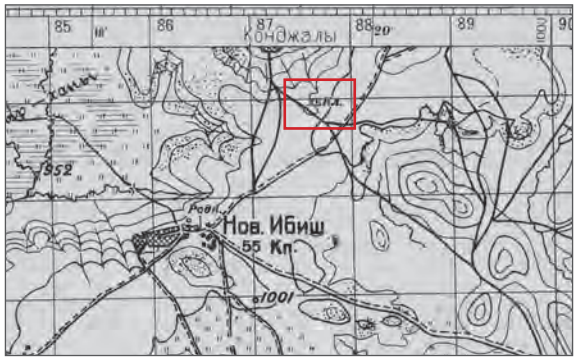
ID: 199
Location: Gonjali village (*present-day Zarishat village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 10, 2015 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 199
Location: Gonjali village (*present-day Zarishat village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 13, 2023 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

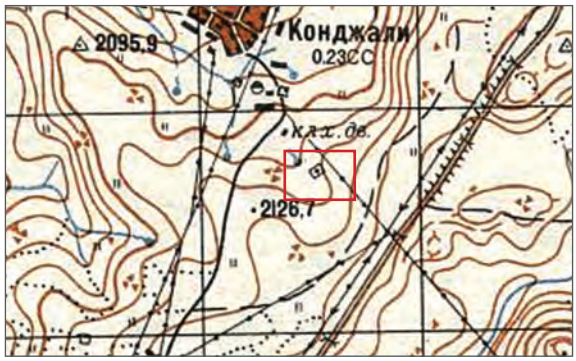
1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



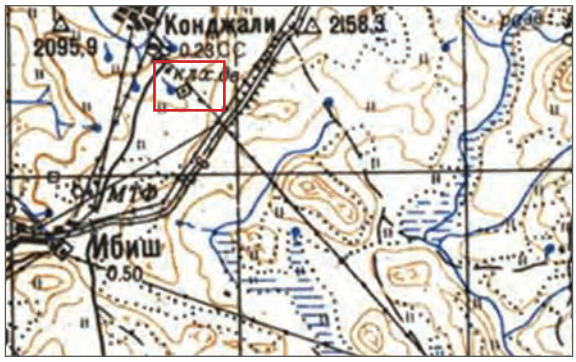
1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

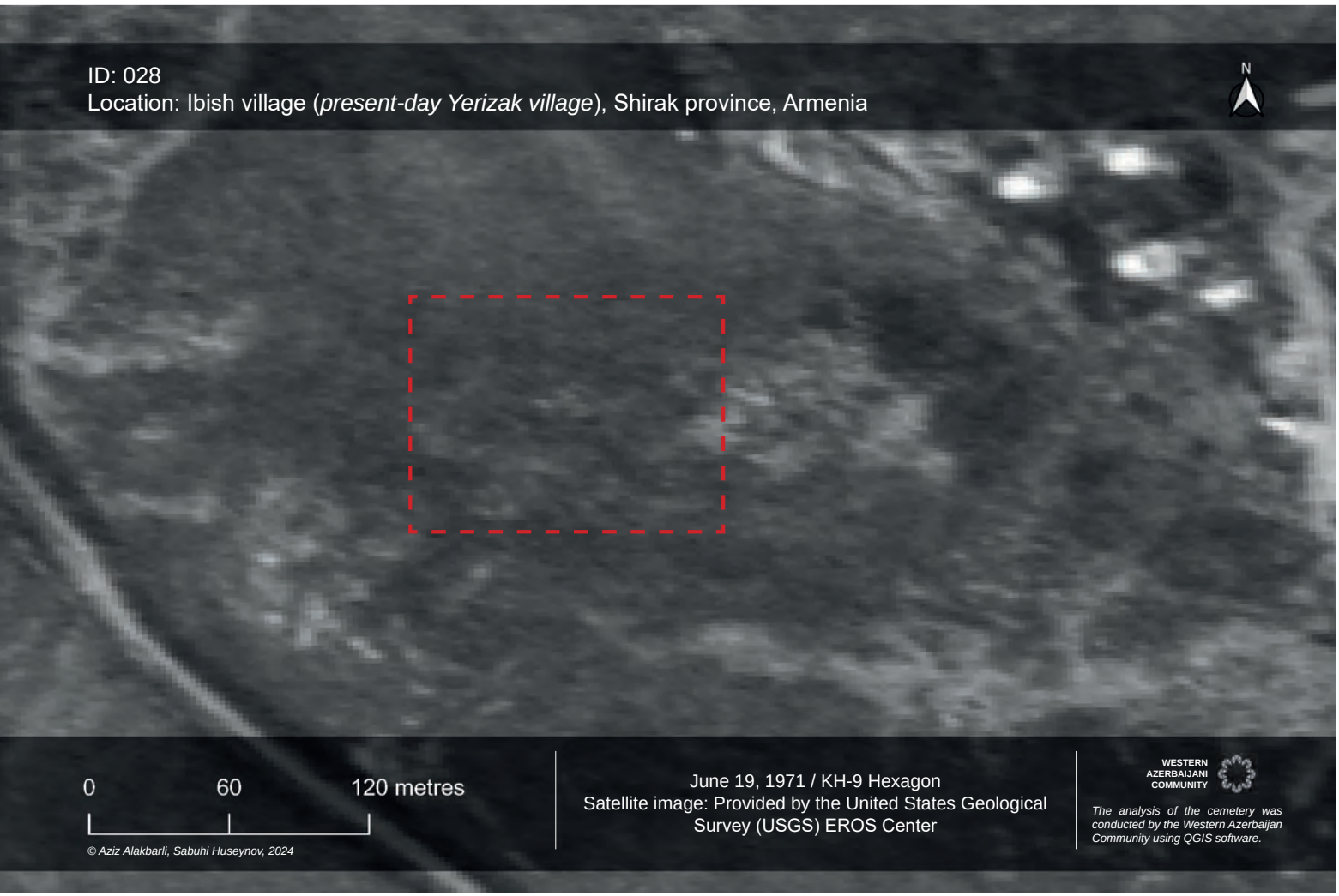
© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Ibish Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Ibish village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Yerizak village (Armenian)
ID: 028 [MC-015], 40.9803159, 43.6381993


ID: 028
Location: Ibish village (present-day Yerizak village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Ibish was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. It was established by Azerbaijanis who migrated from Ibish village, which remained within the borders of the Republic of Turkey after the signing of the Treaty of Kars[1] in 1921.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Ibish village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Ibish village was renamed Yerizak.[2]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

In the KH-9 Hexagon satellite image of June 19, 1971,[2] the cemetery could not be identified. However, in the 2003 QuickBird-2 satellite image[3], its destruction was evident, with only a few tombstones covered by vegetation remaining visible.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the western part of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1983 (1:50,000 scale)[3] and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[4]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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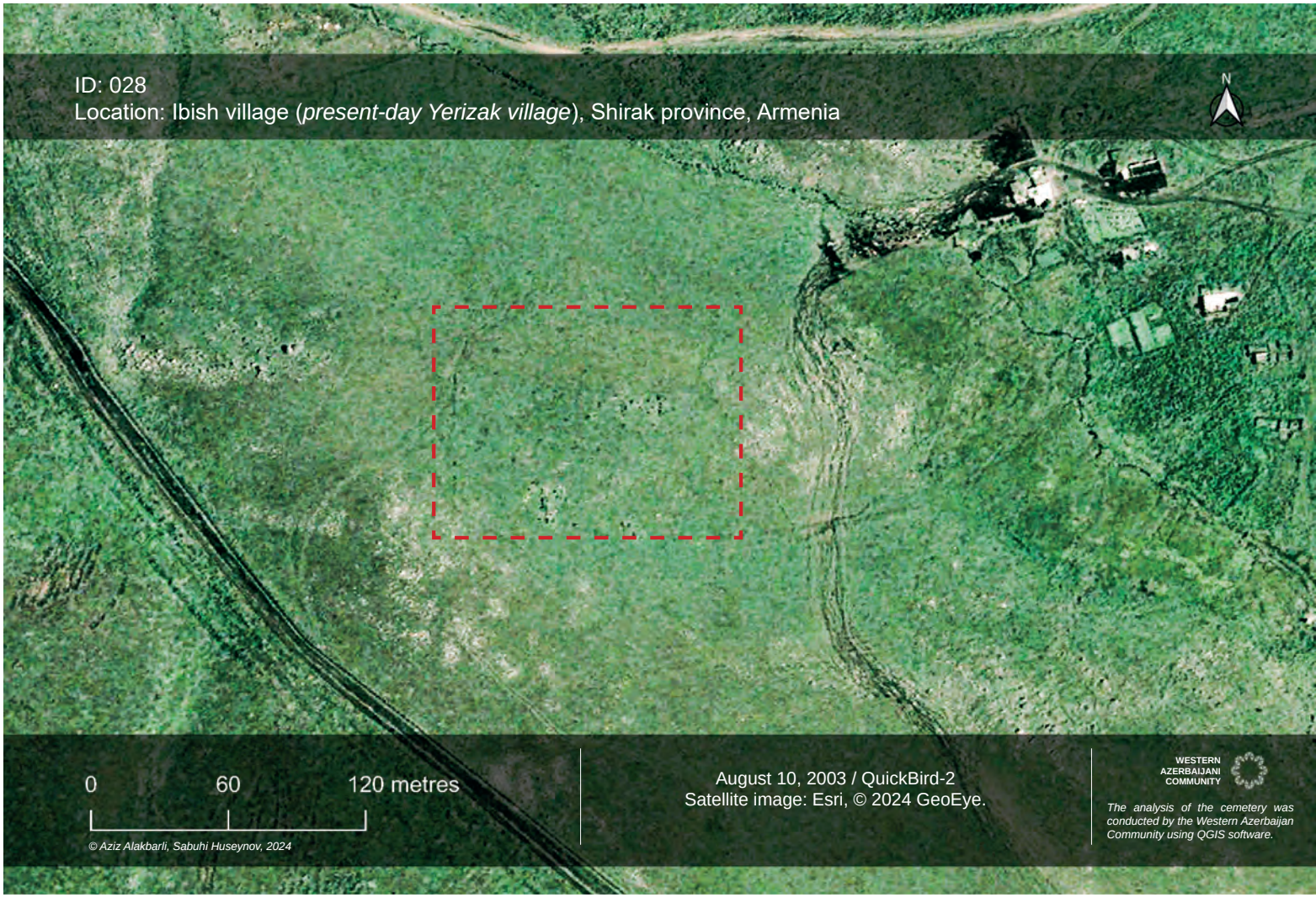
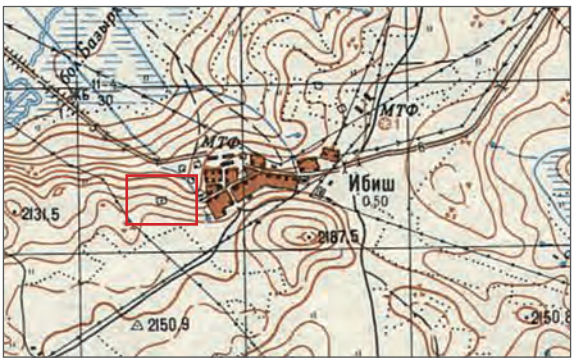
2. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
3. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
4. QuickBird-2, August 18, 2001, GeoEye via Esri Map.
5. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112-A (*Giullibulag*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
6. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 028
Location: Ibish village (*present-day Yerizak village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 GeoEye.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

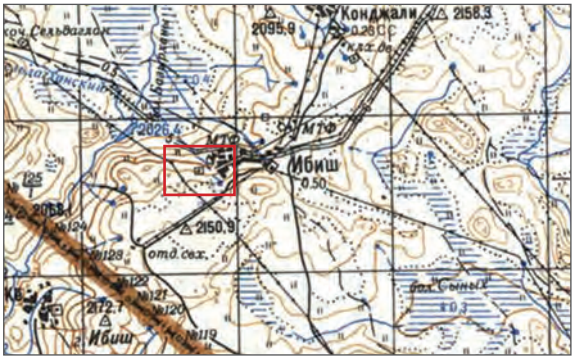
1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Ilanli Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Chaybasar village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Aravet village (Armenian)
ID: 152 [MC-058], 41.045287, 43.779226

Ilanli was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, on the bank of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 453 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source "Karapapakhs" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

Following an Armenian assault on April 18, 1918, the population of Ilanli village was forced to flee the village.[2] The survivors took refuge in the territory of Kars province of present-day Turkiye.[3] However, shortly afterward, with the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, the population returned and resumed living in their village. Following the Armistice of Mudros, under Article 11 of the treaty, the defeated Ottoman Empire was required to withdraw its forces from the region by November 1918.[4] From December 1918 to April 1919, Ilanli village was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, following an Armenian assault, the population of Ilanli village was forced to abandon their homes.[5] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[6] In 1922, 146 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 26, 1946, Ilanli village was renamed Chaybasar.[8]

In the late 1980s, as a result of Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 564 Azerbaijani residents[9] of Chaybasar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Ilanli village was renamed Aravet.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated July 28, 1970[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.55 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1970 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that the cemetery was later expanded, covering an area of over 1.5 hectares. The cemetery was obliterated entirely between 1989 and 2003.

Considering the intensive vegetation growth, it is presumed that the cemetery obliteration began after the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village and was carried out between 1990 and 1995.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and 2024 (Airbus)[13], as well as the photographs obtained (Images Nos.1, 3) confirmed that the obliteration had long been completed by that time.

Thus, the analysis results demonstrate that the cemetery located in Ilanli village, as well as the village itself, was subjected to extensive destruction following the deportation of its Azerbaijani population.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the southern part of the village, at an elevation of 2,010 meters above sea level. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1970 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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2. *Kars ili ve chevresinde Ermeni Mezalimi (1918-1920),* with afterword and notes by Dr. Fahrettin Kïrzïoglu (Ankara: Kardesh Matbaasï, 1970), 44.
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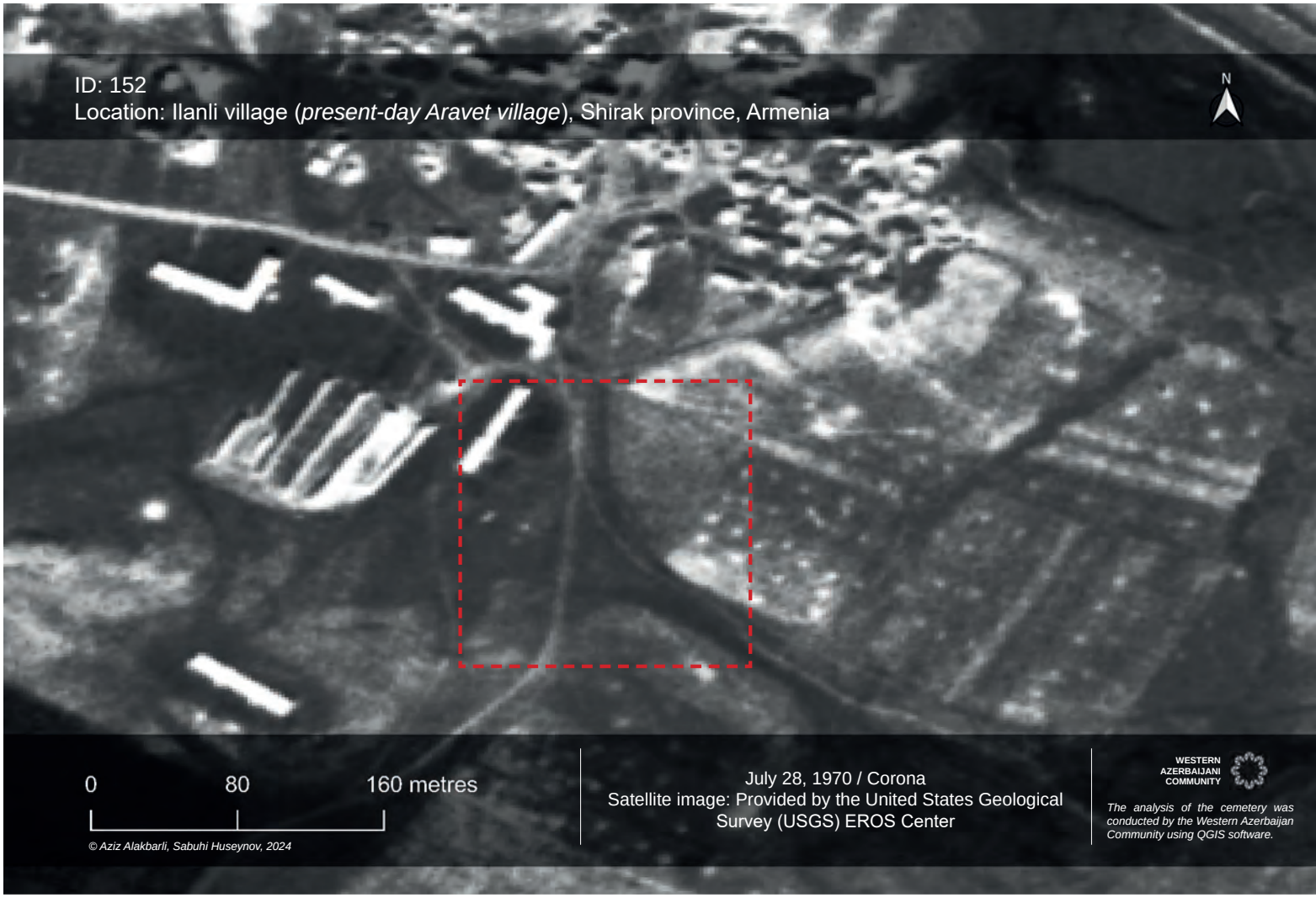
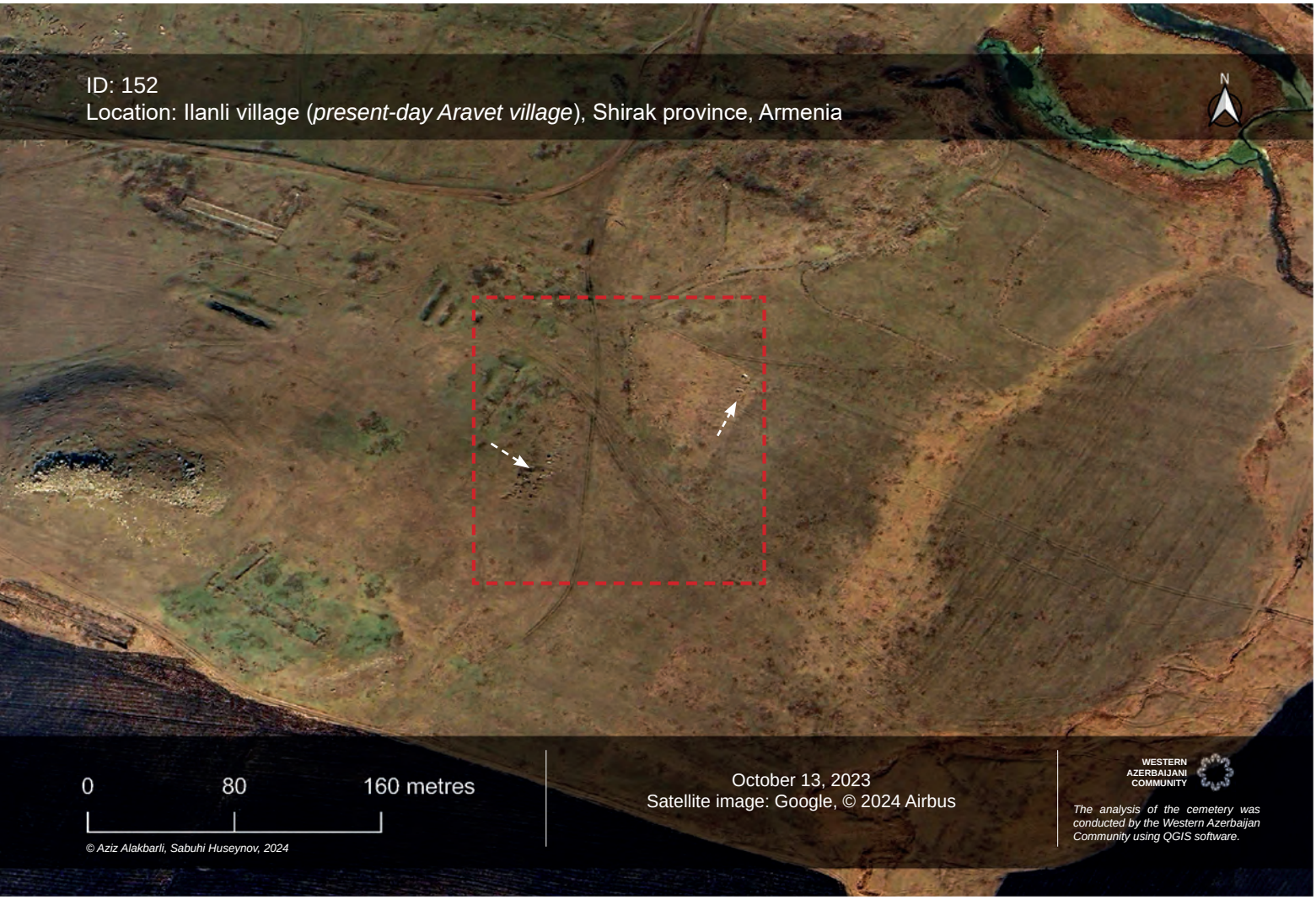
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104–105.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 180.
9. *Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
11. *Corona, DS1111-1082AA013*, July 28, 1970, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. October 13. 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-100-G (*Gukasian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 152
Location: Ilanli village (present-day Aravet village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 28, 1970 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

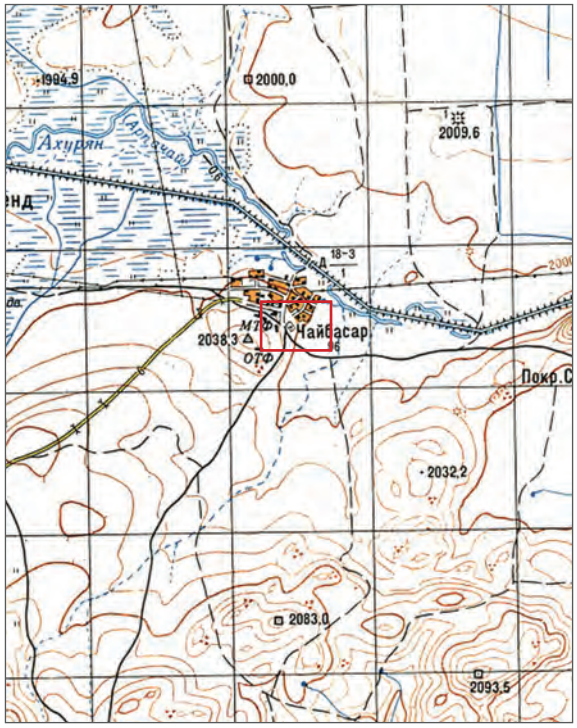
ID: 152
Location: Ilanli village (present-day Aravet village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 152
Location: Ilanli village (*present-day Aravet village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 13, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

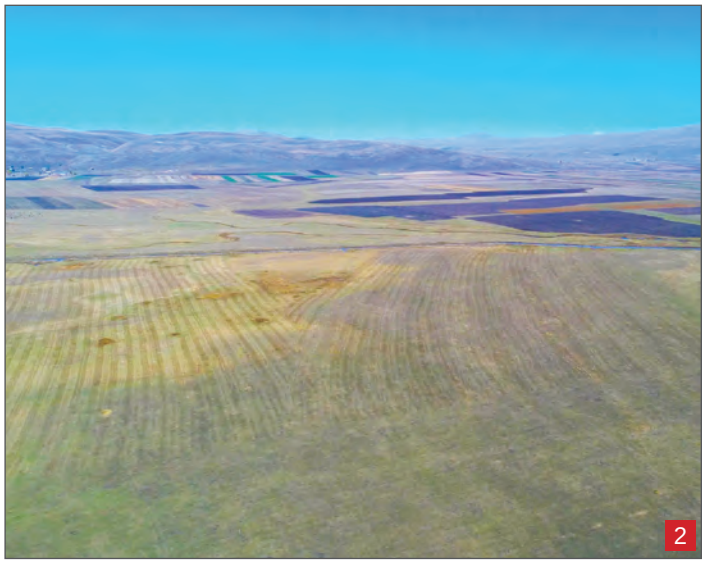
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

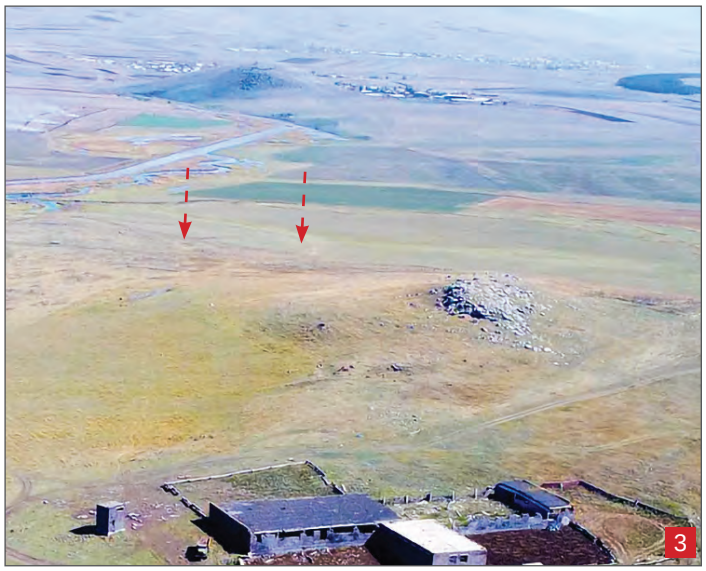
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:





© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Magharajig Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Magharajig village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Gtashen village (Armenian)
ID: 190 [MC-151], 40.916353, 43.723817

Magharajig was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 539 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Magharajig was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. In February 1920, the population of Magharajig was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] During this period, all members of 100 families from the village were massacred.[3] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[4] In 1922, 308 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 1,010 Azerbaijani residents[6] of Magharajig village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Magharajig village was renamed Gtashen.[7]

In the Magharajig village cemetery stood the mausoleum of Zahrabeyim, a descendant of the Sayyids, which was revered and frequently visited by Azerbaijanis from surrounding villages.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2.53 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern. At the center of the site, a square-shaped mausoleum of Zahrabeyim was identified, along with a fence that enclosed the cemetery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003.

Although the authors were able to identify tombstones in the south-southeast section of the cemetery, they confirmed that the mausoleum of Zahrabeyim had been completely destroyed. Only its foundations remained visible. In the northeast section, all tombstones had been destroyed. By 2003, approximately 0.36 hectares of the cemetery's northern section had been cleared of tombstones and converted into a residential farming plot.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and 2011[11] determined that a total of 1.23 hectares of the cemetery area had been obliterated. By 2011, a wide dirt road had been constructed, running from north to south through the cemetery. A comparative analysis of 2011 and 2021 satellite imagery (GeoEye-1)[12], as well as photographic evidence from 2024 confirmed that the remaining tombstones visible in the eastern section had also been obliterated (Images Nos. 1-3).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located southwest of Magharajig village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1976 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1977 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104-105.
6. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu* (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014), 13.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
8. Aslan Bayramov, *Qädim Oghuz ellärinin—Aghbaba, Shoräyel vä Pämbäk bolgälärinin yer-yurd adlari (toponimläri)* (Baku: 2003), 197.
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10. *QuickBirds-2*, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. March 27, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *GeoEye-1*, August 31, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-112-A (*Giullibulag*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, *K-38-112* (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.

ID: 190
Location: Magharajig village (*present-day Gtashen village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Zahrabeyim Mausoleum
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 190
Location: Magharajig village (*present-day Gtashen village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Ruins of Sayyida Zahrabeyim Mausoleum
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

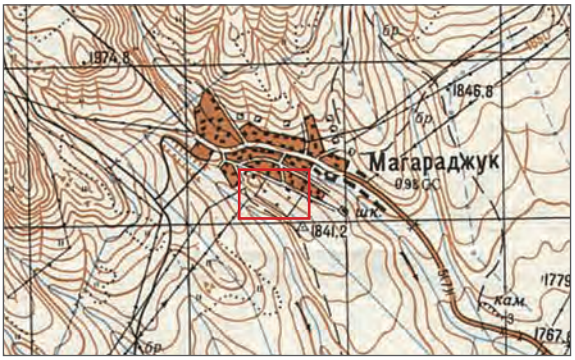
ID: 190
Location: Magharajig village (*present-day Gtashen village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 27, 2011
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 190
Location: Magharajig village (*present-day Gtashen village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

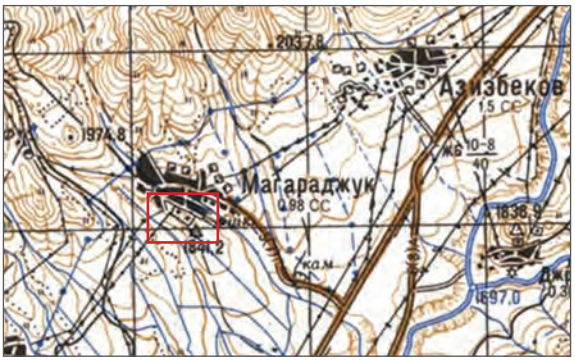
1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2009

Status: OBLITERATED

Okhchoghlu Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Okhchoghlu village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Voghji village (Armenian)
ID: 135 [MC-037], 40.822640, 43.731381

Okhchoghlu was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Shorayel region, 10 kilometers northwest of Gyumri. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. The village's name appears in historical sources as early as the first half of the 18th century. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 983 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, Okhchoghlu was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On January 16, 1920, the village came under attack by Armenian forces. At that time, the property and belongings of 150 Azerbaijani families were looted by Armenians, and the villagers themselves were massacred.[2] The survivors were forced to flee, initially seeking refuge in the Aghbaba region and later becoming refugees in the Akhalkalaki region. Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] In 1921, 453 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[4]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 1,552 Azerbaijani residents of Okhchoghlu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Okhchoghlu village was renamed Voghji.[6]

The village's ancient cemetery once contained grave monuments featuring ram and horse sculptures. In the Okhchoghlu village cemetery stood a domed mausoleum known as the Hearth of Urgiyya Khanim, a Sayyid descendant. It was a revered site visited by Azerbaijanis from the surrounding villages.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 4.32 hectares, with tombstones and a mausoleum identified on the site. The identified mausoleum is presumed to be the so-called Hearth of Urgiyya Khanim. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and October 16, 2009[9] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was completely destroyed between 1989 and 2009. The structure presumed to be the Hearth of Urgiyya Khanim was entirely demolished. In general, out of more than 4.32 hectares of cemetery area identified in the Hexagon image, 2.81 hectares were bulldozed, cleared, and converted into arable land. The remnants of tombstones that were extensively destroyed over an area of 1.62 hectares remain visible to this day. Destruction was found to be particularly extensive in the central and southern parts of the cemetery. By 2009, the shadows cast by nearly 45 headstones could still be observed in the cemetery. The GeoEye-1 satellite image[10] from 2021 indicates that, as of this date, the cemetery's condition remained relatively unchanged, though there was an expansion of cultivated land.

The analysis of satellite imagery reveals that the destroyed area of the cemetery is being progressively repurposed for agricultural purposes. Using the coordinates from the 1984 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated on a high hill in the west of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1941 (1:42,000 scale)[11], 1984 (1:50,000 scale)[12], and 1985 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1984 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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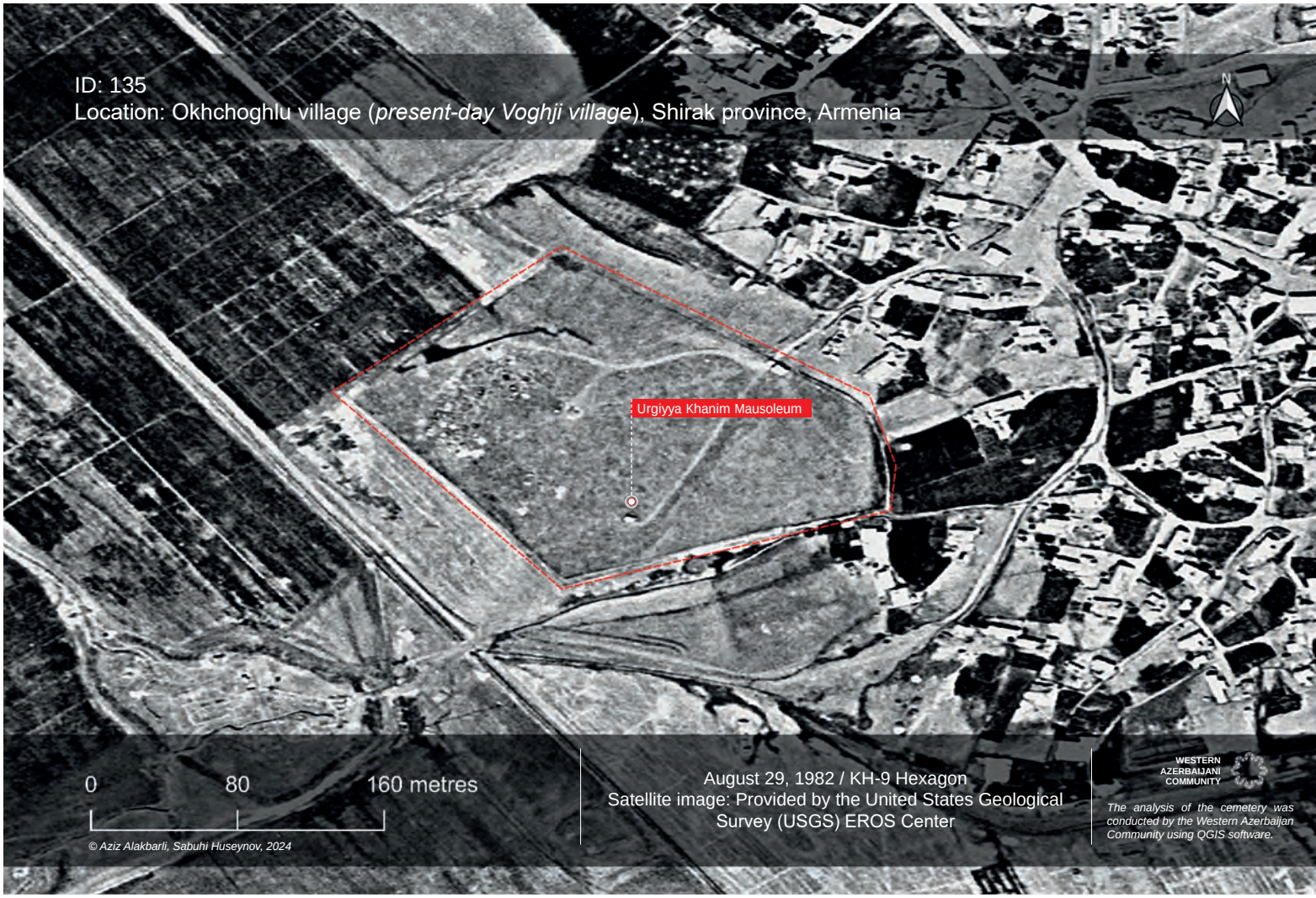
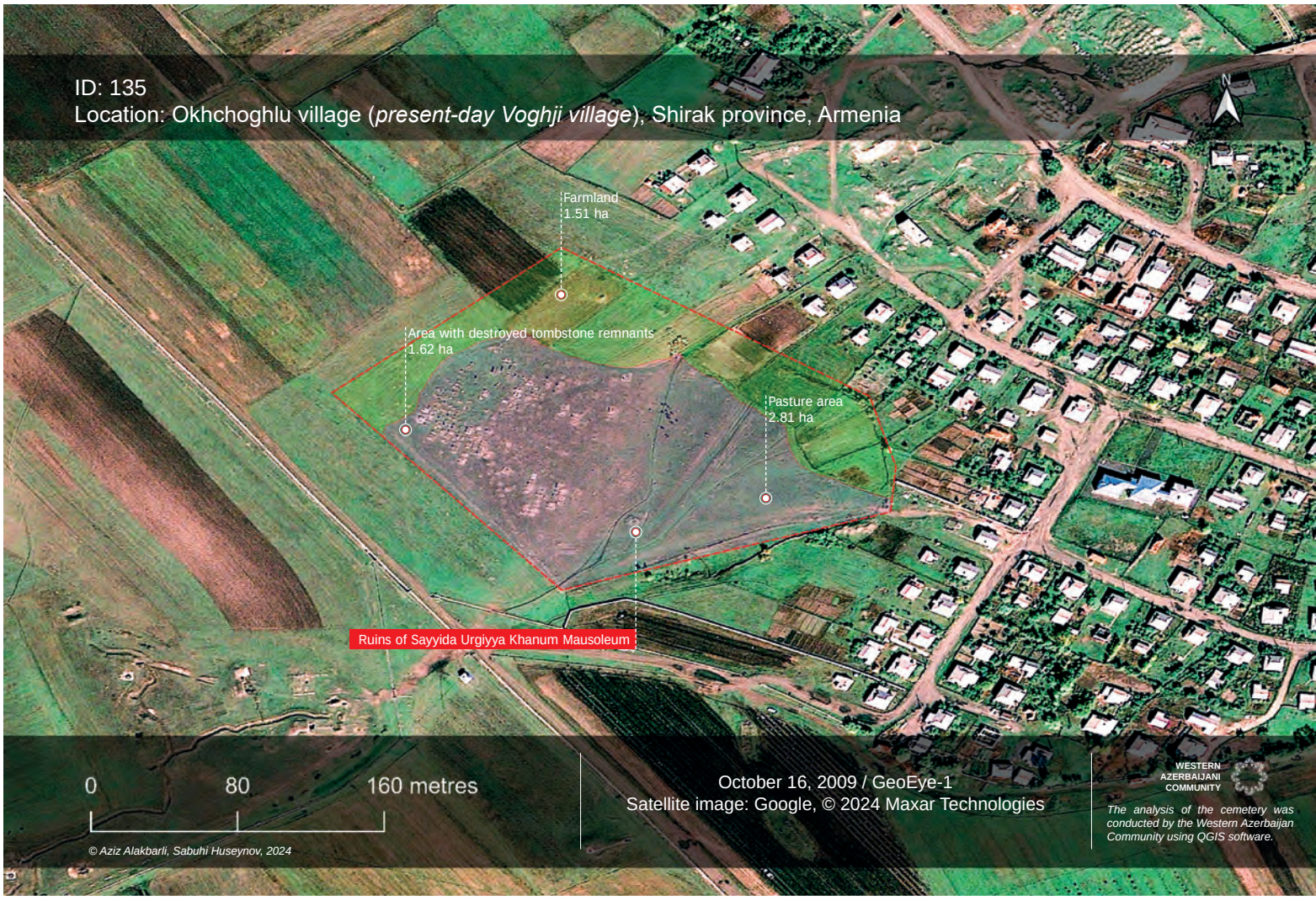
2. Shuregel ve Zarushad kazalarïnda Ermeniler tarafïndan yapïlan mezalim, Belge no: 66, in *Ermeniler Tarafïndan Yapïlan Katliam Belgelerde*, II. cilt (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 2001), 903–905; original source: BOA. HR.SYS.2878/55.
3. *Kars Muahedenamesi: Turkiye-Ermenistan, Azerbayjan ve Gurjustan hukumetleri arasïnda, Kars'da 13 Teshrinievvel 1337 (1921) tarihinde akd ve imza edilmishdir* (Ankara: Turkiye Jumhuriyyeti Harijiyye Vekaleti, 1339 [1923]).
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 104-105.
5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 171.
6. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
7. Aslan Bayramov, *Qädim Oghuz ellärinin—Aghbaba, Shoräyel vä Pämbäk bolgälärinin yer-yurd adlari (toponimläri)* (Baku: 2003), 209.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *GeoEye-1*, October 16, 2009, Maxar via Google Map.
10. *GeoEye-1*, August 31, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. General'nyï Shtab Krasnoi Armii, XXXI-30 (*Giulli-bulag*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1941.
12. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112-V (*Siuregel'*) [map], scale 1:50,000. 1984.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-112 (*Leninakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1985.


ID: 135
Location: Okhchoghlu village (*present-day Voghji village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Urgiyya Khanim Mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

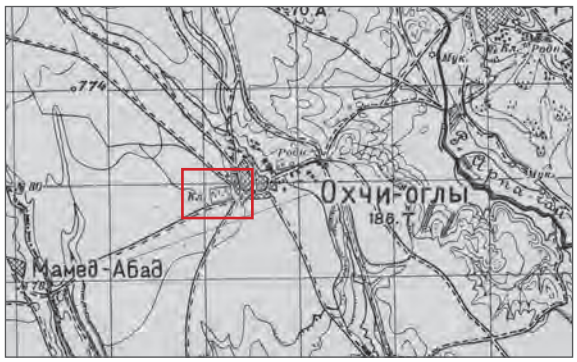

ID: 135
Location: Okhchoghlu village (*present-day Voghji village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Farmland
1.51 ha
Area with destroyed tombstone remnants
1.62 ha
Pasture area
2.81 ha
Ruins of Sayyida Urgiyya Khanum Mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 16, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 135
Location: Okhchoghlu village (*present-day Voghji village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
Farmland
1.70 ha
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2021 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

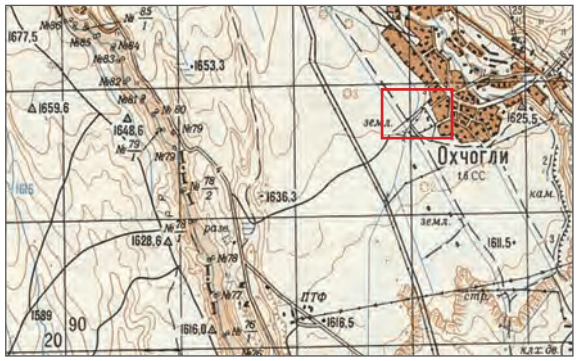
1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



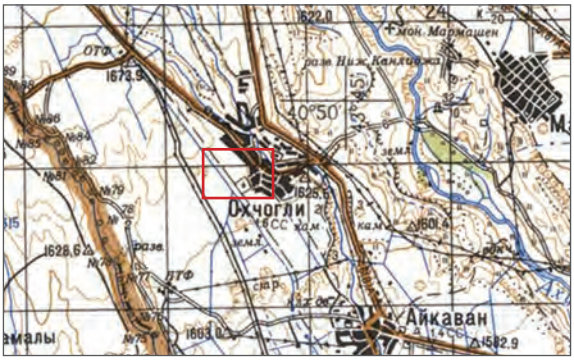
1984

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1984 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1985

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1985 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

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CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

5

7

6

8

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9

10

11

12

© Raymond Supan, 2022

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Sultanabad Village New Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Sultanabad village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Paghakn village (Armenian)
ID: 136 [MC-055], 41.063188,43.656153

Sultanabad was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, on the northeastern shores of Aghbaba Lake. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956.

From December 1918 to April 1919, Sultanabad was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On February 2, 1920, the population of Sultanabad was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[1] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[2] In 1921, 144 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled. For the first time, from this date, 19 Armenians were settled in the village.[3] However, over time, these settlers also left. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, the village was renamed Shurabad.[4] In 1950, 295 Azerbaijani residents of the village were deported to Alpout village in the Goychay district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988 and early 1989, the Azerbaijani residents of Sultanabad village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Sultanabad village was renamed Paghakn.[6]

Before the deportations of the 1950s, the village cemetery was located in the western part of Sultanabad. However, after the deportation, this cemetery was submerged under a reservoir. Following their return, the Azerbaijani residents established a new cemetery on an elevated site in the central part of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis revealed tombstones on the cemetery site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2003[8] (QuickBird-2) (see below) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. This is further evidenced by the fragments of tombstones scattered throughout the area. In certain sections of the cemetery, which had been destroyed and obliterated, stone remnants were also detected in the WorldView-2 satellite image of June 25, 2012.[9]

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2012 and July 13, 2023[10] (GeoEye-1) confirms that the area remained stable. The analysis of the photograph taken in 2024 is also important for assessing the current condition of the cemetery. The photograph corroborates the findings of the satellite imagery and further confirms the observed changes (Image No. 1).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located northwest of the village, approximately 500 meters south of the confluence of the Abaran river with the Abaran Reservoir. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[11], and from 1976 at two different scales: 1:50,000[12] and 1:100,000[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 2003 QuickBird-2 satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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6. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 15 (995), 15 ogostosi 1991 t., Yerevan,33.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
9. *WorldView-2*, June 25, 2012, Maxar via Esri Map.
10. *GeoEye-1*, July 13, 2023, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
12. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-100-V (*Giullidzha)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-100 (*Bogdanovka*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 136
Location: Sultanabad village (*present-day Paghakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
200
400 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 136
Location: Sultanabad village (*present-day Paghakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
200
400 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 136
Location: Sultanabad village (*present-day Paghakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 25, 2012 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 136
Location: Sultanabad village (*present-day Paghakn village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
200
400 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 13, 2023 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

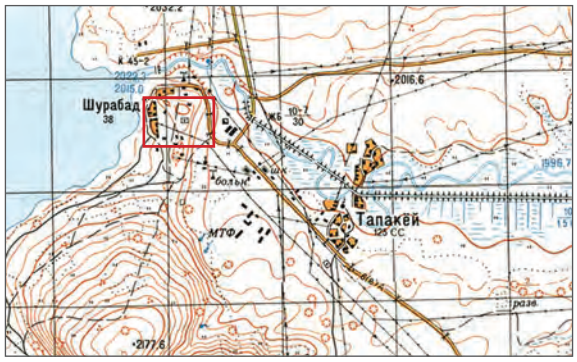
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Tepekoy Village Cemetery

Location: Amasiya district, Tepekoy village (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Berdashen village (Armenian)
ID: 197 [MC-056], 41.0524115, 43.670908

Boyuk Tepekoy was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Aghbaba region, on the bank of the Arpachay river. It was incorporated into Aghbaba district on September 9, 1930, Amasiya district on January 3, 1935, Verin Gukasyan district in 1951, and Amasiya district again on October 12, 1956. The 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*') recorded two villages named Boyuk Tepekoy (Greater Tepekoy) and Kichik Tepekoy (Lesser Tepekoy), with a total population of 566 Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From December 1918 to April 1919, it was part of the Southwest Caucasian Republic. After the republic's collapse, the village, under the leadership of the Aghbaba National Council, resisted Armenian forces. On March 19-20, 1920, the population of Boyuk Tepekoy village was forced to flee the village following an Armenian assault.[2] Under the terms of the Treaty of Kars, signed on October 13, 1921, between the Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, and Armenian SSR on one side, and, on behalf of Turkey, the Government of Grand National Assembly on the other, the village was transferred to the Armenian SSR.[3] Following this, a large portion of the village's population resettled in Gorhane and Porsuglu villages, Kars province, present-day Turkiye. In 1922, only 71 Azerbaijanis lived in Boyuk Tepekoy village.[4]

In 1950, Kichik Tepekoy village in the Amasiya district of the Armenian SSR was dissolved and its territory was merged with Boyuk Tepekoy village. As a result of this administrative change, the territories of the former two villages came under a single administrative unit, and from that date onward, Boyuk Tepekoy was referred to simply as Tepekoy.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-populated settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 758 Azerbaijani residents[5] of Boyuk Tepekoy village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Boyuk Tepekoy village was renamed Berdashen.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (Corona) and August 10, 2003[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. However, it was determined that a few tombstones remained intact within the cemetery area as of 2003.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 (QuickBird-2) and October 9, 2019[10] (Spot 6) revealed that, except for the area in the central part of the cemetery, where tombstones were still present, the rest of the site had been erased and converted into agricultural land. Fragments of destroyed tombstones are still visible in certain areas.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located south of Boyuk Tepekoy village, 50 meters south of the main road, at an elevation of 2,014 meters above sea level. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[11], and from 1976 at two different scales: 1:50,000[12] and 1:100,000[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona imagery dated 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

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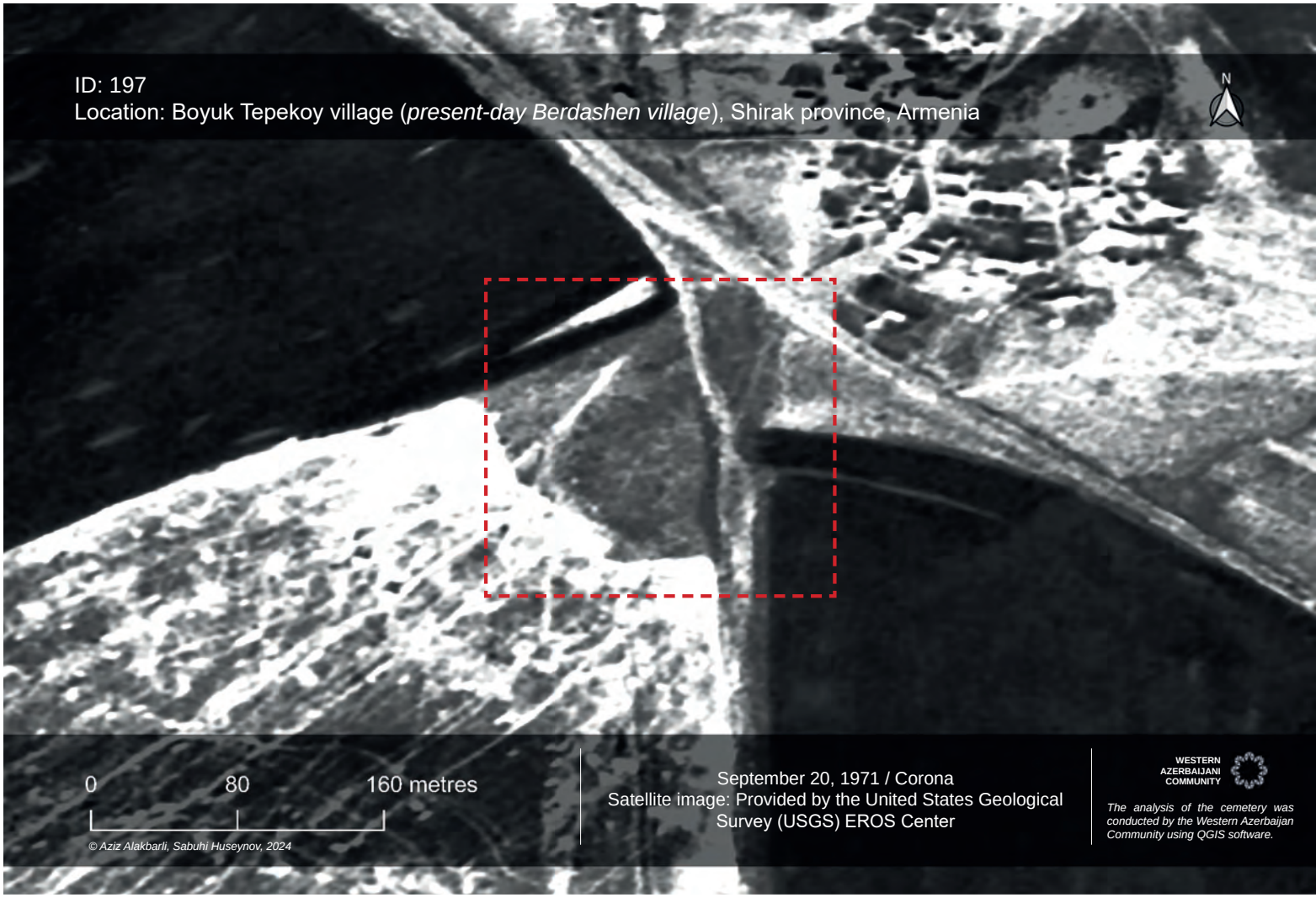
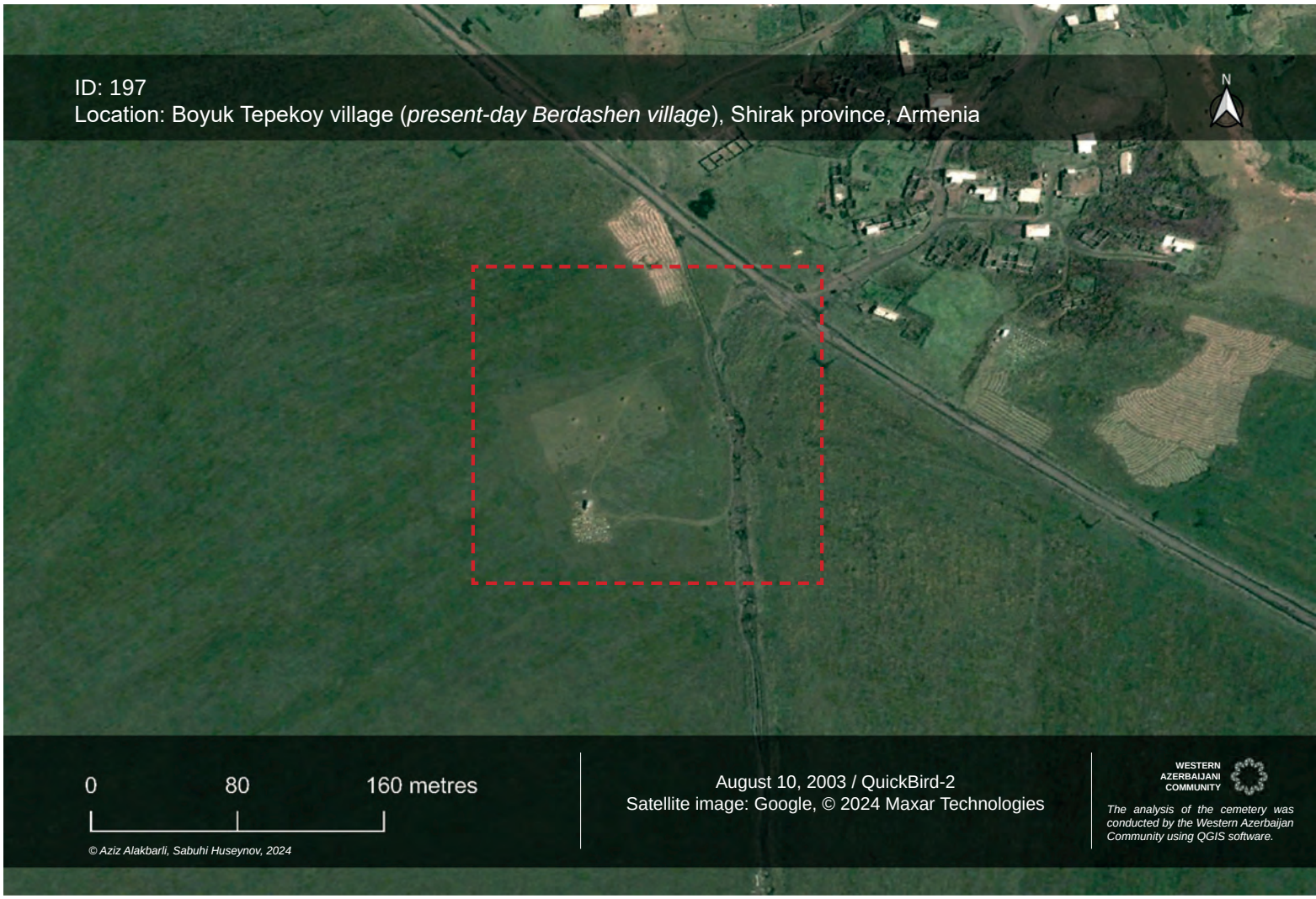
5. Aslan Bayramov and Arzu Bayramova, *Aghbaba shiväsi sozluyu (Baku: AM965 MMC, 2014),* 14.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 180.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir*, no. 15 (995), 15 ogostosi 1991 t., Yerevan, 33.
8. *Corona,1115-2154F087,* September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. October 09, 2019, CNES via Google Earth.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-30 (*Kaikuli-Kazanchi*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100-V (*Giullidzha*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-100 (*Bogdanovka*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 197
Location: Boyuk Tepekoy village (present-day Berdashen village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 197
Location: Boyuk Tepekoy village (present-day Berdashen village), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 197
Location: Boyuk Tepekoy village (*present-day Berdashen village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 9, 2019 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 197
Location: Boyuk Tepekoy village (*present-day Berdashen village*), Shirak province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 4, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

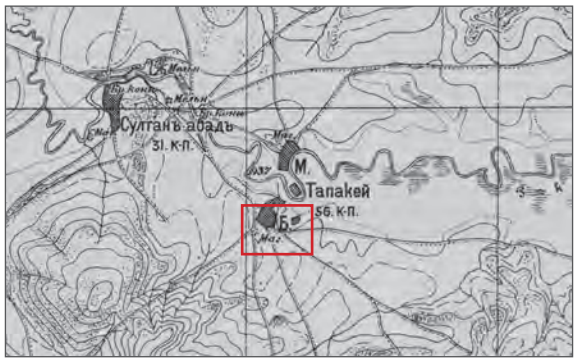
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

A *1:84,000-scale* military-topographic map, originally based on an 1896 map and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey, marked the site as a Muslim cemetery.

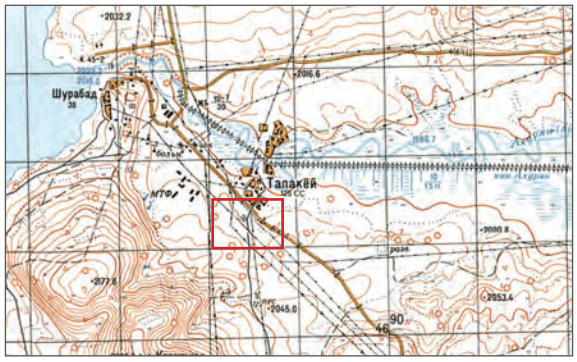
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



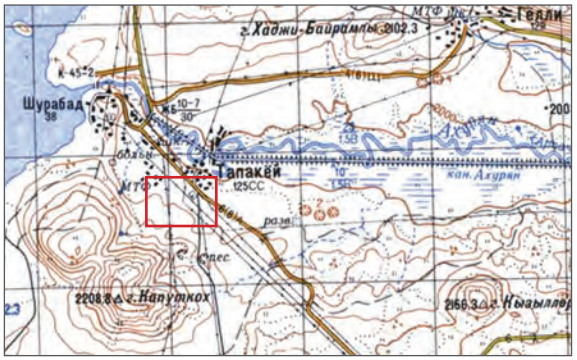
1976

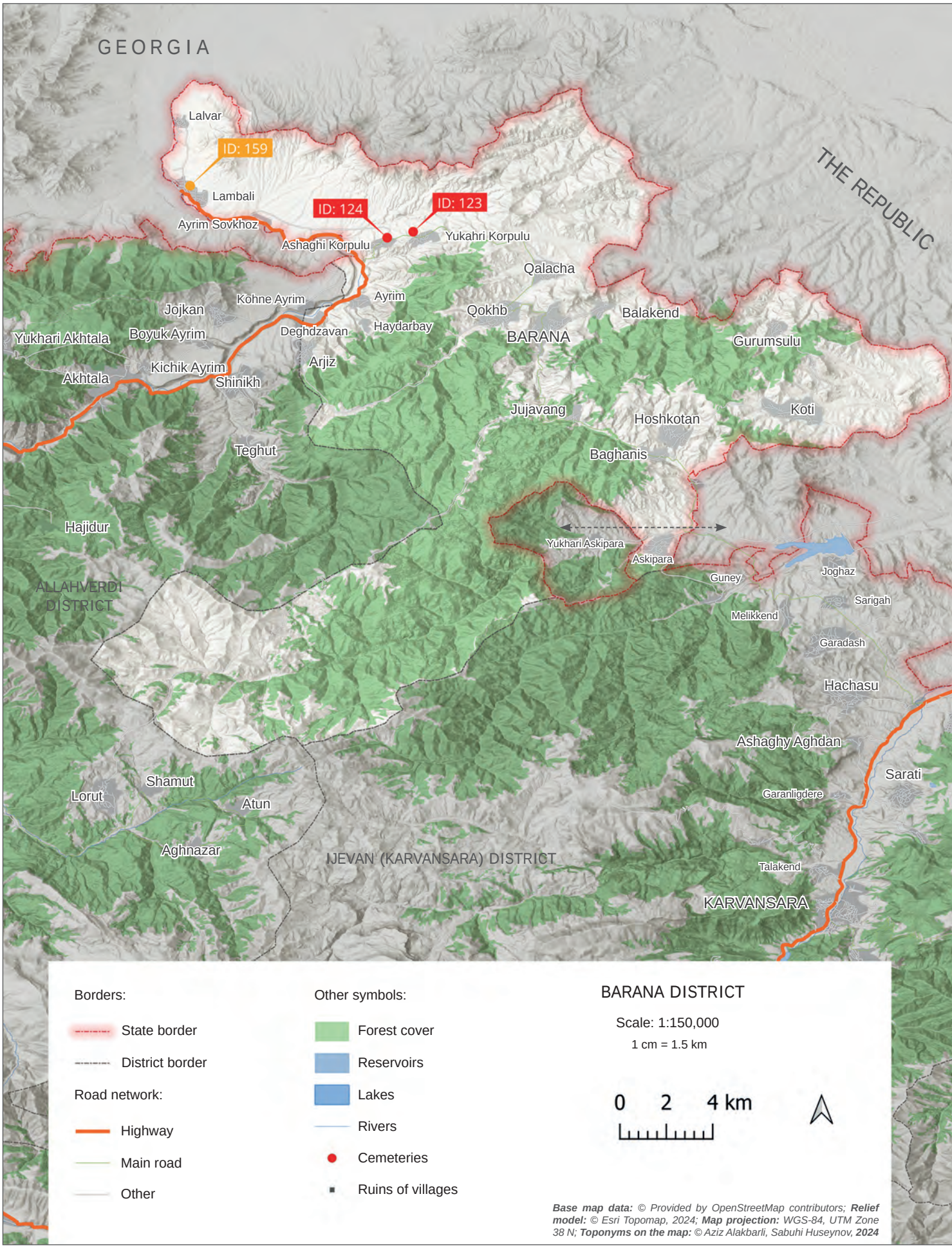
Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



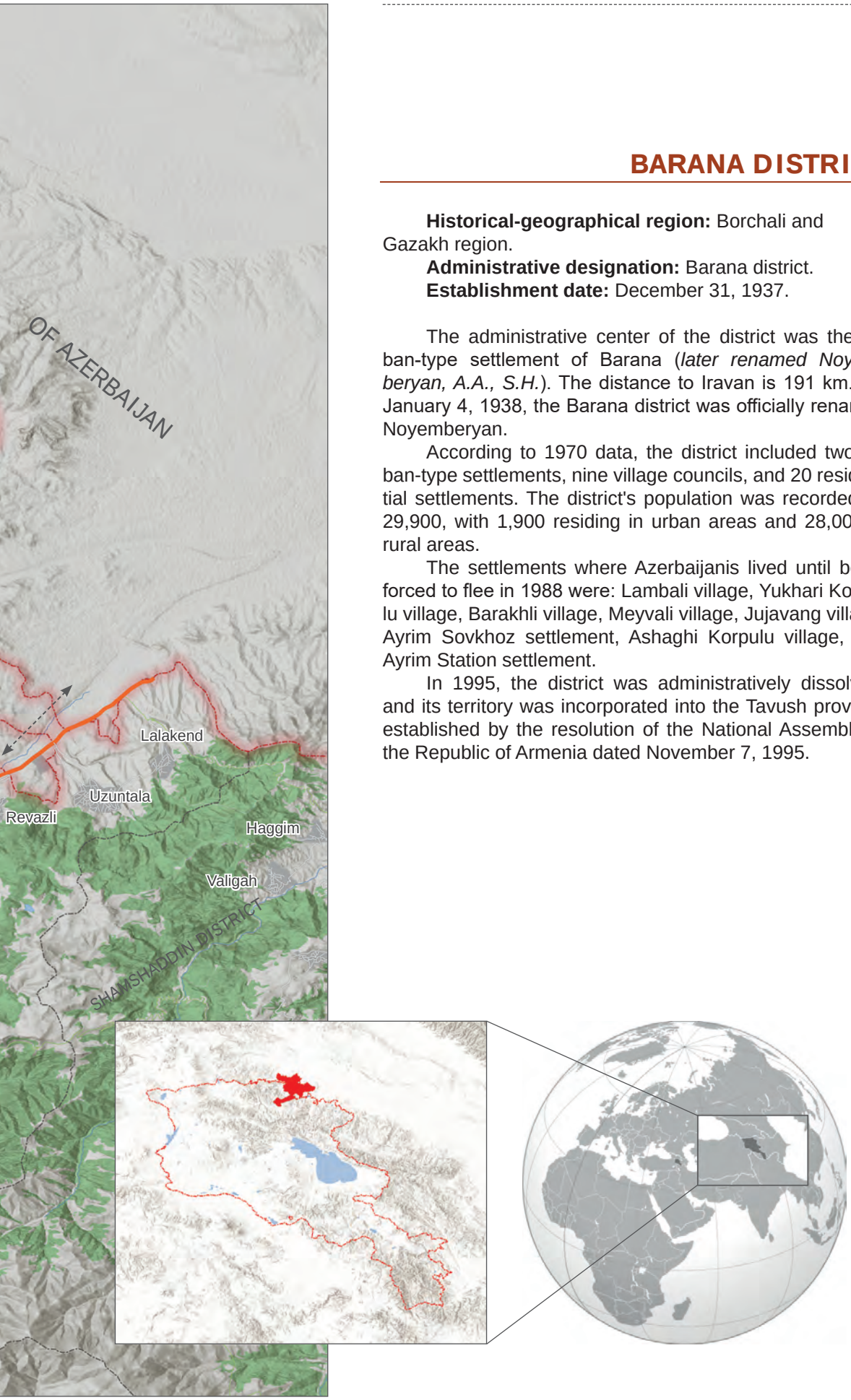
1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.





Base map data: *© Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors;* ***Relief model:*** *© Esri Topomap, 2024;* ***Map projection:*** *WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N;* ***Toponyms on the map:*** *© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov,* ***2024***



BARANA DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Borchali and Gazakh region.

Administrative designation: Barana district.

Establishment date: December 31, 1937.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Barana (*later renamed Noyemberyan, A.A., S.H.*). The distance to Iravan is 191 km. On January 4, 1938, the Barana district was officially renamed Noyemberyan.

According to 1970 data, the district included two urban-type settlements, nine village councils, and 20 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 29,900, with 1,900 residing in urban areas and 28,000 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 were: Lambali village, Yukhari Korpulu village, Barakhli village, Meyvali village, Jujavang village, Ayrim Sovkhoz settlement, Ashaghi Korpulu village, and Ayrim Station settlement.

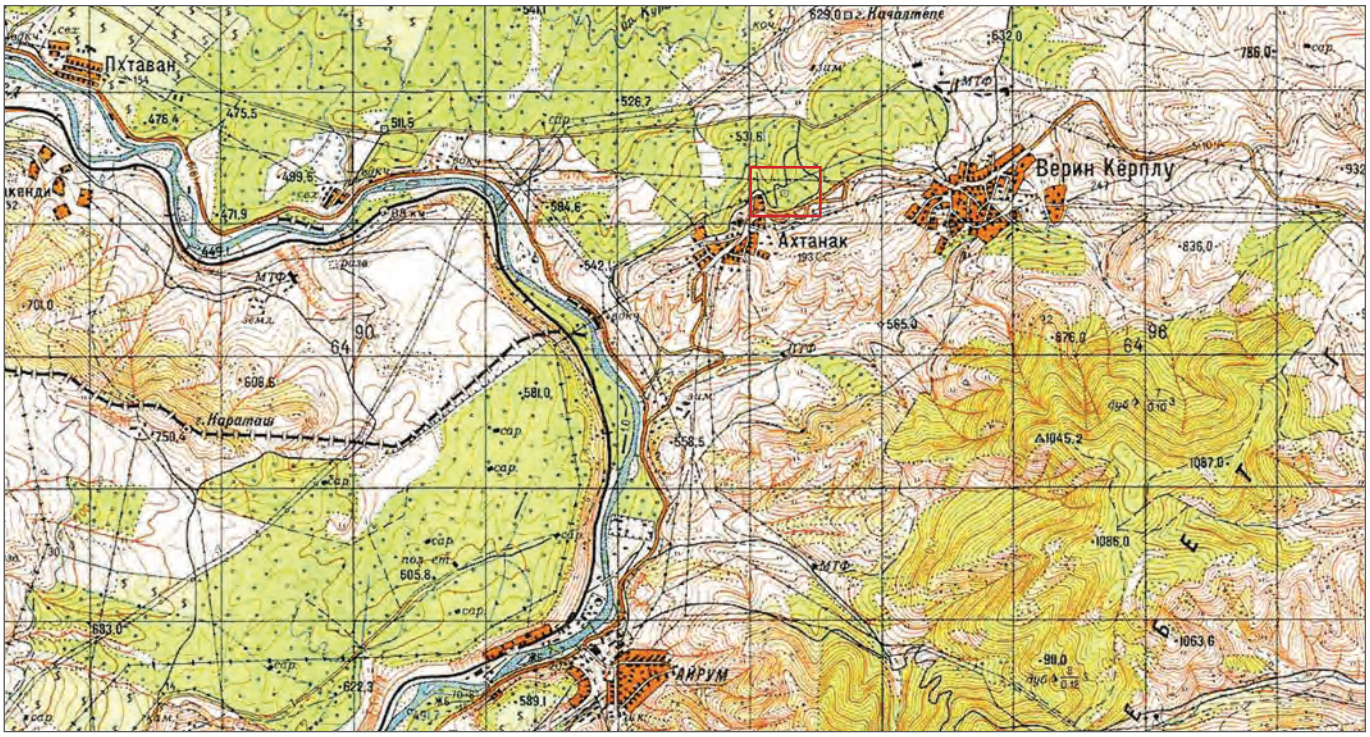
In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Tavush province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Ashaghi Korpulu Village Cemetery

Location: Barana district, Ashaghi Korpulu village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Haghtanak village (Armenian)
ID: 124 [MC-005], 41.220865, 44.918141



Ashaghi Korpulu was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Borchali region. It was incorporated into Barana district on December 31, 1937, and later into Noyemberyan district on January 4, 1938. In 1948, its population was forcibly deported to Yukhari Salahli village in the Gazakh district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[1] After 1950, Armenians were resettled here from the Georgian SSR. Some Azerbaijanis who returned continued to live in the village alongside Armenians from that time onward. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1972, Ashaghi Korpulu village was renamed Haghtanak.[2]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Ashaghi Korpulu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[3]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 4, 1977[4] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Based on this analysis, the cemetery was found to be located on a relatively elevated area of 2 hectares. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1977 (KH-Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[5] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2007.

The vast majority of the tombstones visible in the Hexagon image have already been destroyed. The image further reveals that, in addition to the destruction, the village cemetery also suffered extensive looting.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated on a high hill on the left side of the road leading to Yukhari Korpulu village, approximately 50 meters north of the road. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[6]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1977 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1213-300585A018*, October 04, 1977, USGS EROS Data Center.
5. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
6. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-102-2 [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 124
Location: Ashaghi Korpulu village (*present-day Haghtanak village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 4, 1977 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 124
Location: Ashaghi Korpulu village (*present-day Haghtanak village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2007

Status: DESTROYED

Lambali Village Cemetery

Location: Barana district, Lambali village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Bagratashen village (Armenian)
ID: 159 [MC-517], 41.247330, 44.817674

Lambali was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Borchali region, on the right bank of the Borchali river (Debed river). It was incorporated into Barana district on December 31, 1937, and later into Noyemberyan district on January 4, 1938. In 1918, the arrival of the Ottoman army in these territories saved the village from Armenian massacres. Under the Treaty of Batum, the village's territory remained within the borders of the Republic of Georgia. Following the withdrawal of the Ottoman army from the region, the Armenia-Georgia War of December 29–31, 1918, led to Armenian aggression against the village, forcing the population to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by the Republic of Armenia. After some time, the returning population restored the village and resettled. Following the establishment of Soviet rule, on July 7, 1921, the Caucasus Bureau of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) (RKP(b)) issued a resolution to transfer many villages of the Korpulu commune, including Lambali, to the Armenian SSR.1 In 1922, the village had a population of 873 Azerbaijanis. In 1948, plans were made to deport 1,179 Azerbaijanis to the villages of Arbatan, Marishli, Garagashli, Komsomol, and Khalaj in the Salyan district.[2] In 1949, in response to their deportation to the Kur-Araz plain in the Azerbaijan SSR, part of the village's population relocated to Azerbaijani-populated villages in the Georgian SSR. Subsequently, 300 residents were exiled to the villages of Zod and Aghkilsa in the Basarkechar district.[3] However, after some time, they crossed the mountains and returned to their village, only to find that Armenians resettled from abroad had already been placed in Lambali by the authorities of the Armenian SSR. Various complaints filed in different places yielded no results. As they were not allowed to return to their homes, they were forced to build new houses near the village. On June 18, 1960, Lambali village was renamed Debetashen.[4] However, shortly thereafter, by a resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated February 23, 1972, it was renamed Bagratashen.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. From November 28 to 29, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Lambali village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 4, 1977[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the section of the cemetery belonging to Azerbaijanis spanned an area of 1.76 hectares (out of a total of 2.44 hectares), with tombstones identified on the site. The western part of the cemetery belonged to Armenians, while the eastern section, separated by a boundary through the center, was allocated to Azerbaijanis. The image shows that in 1977, the cemetery was surrounded by trees.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1977 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[8] (WorldView-1) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Based on the findings, between 1989 and 2007, 0.24 hectares of the 1.76-hectare section belonging to Azerbaijanis was cleared using heavy machinery and leveled for agricultural purposes. In the remaining 1.52 hectares, destruction took place, and new Armenian graves began to be established in the northern and western sections. Acts of vandalism within the cemetery continued even after 2008 as well.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2008 and February 28, 2021[9] (WorldView-2) indicates that while no structural changes occurred in the area, the 0.24-hectare section cleared in 2008 had expanded to 0.41 hectares, where fruit orchards had been established.

The 2021 video footage revealed that portraits of the deceased on headstones had been scraped off, tombstones had been broken, and some had been completely removed (Images Nos.1-9).

Thus, since 1989, agricultural land modifications and acts of vandalism have severely damaged the cemetery.

The satellite imagery and video footage confirm that significant changes occurred within the cemetery area following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, and that part of the site has been used for agricultural activity

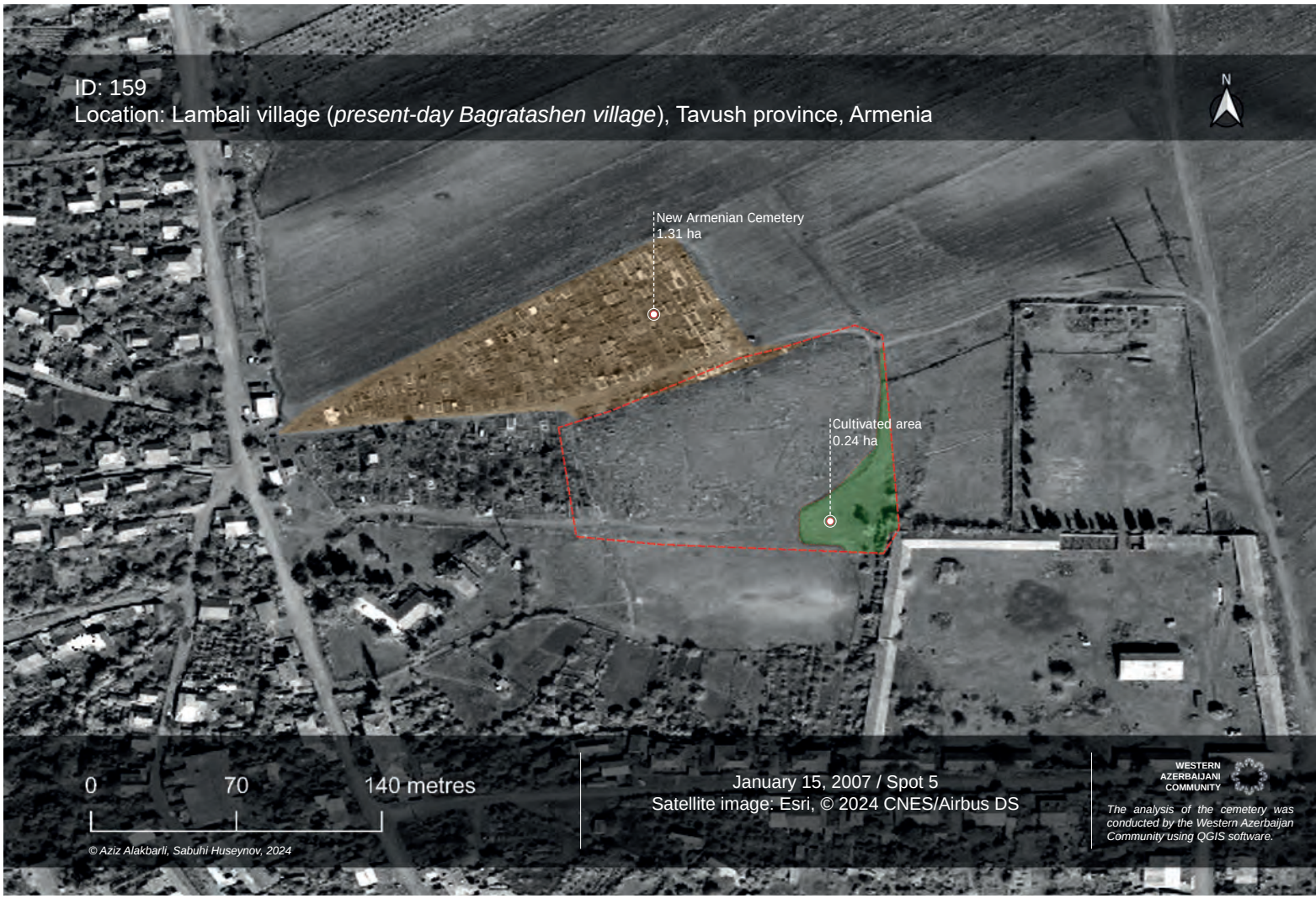
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located east of Lambali village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[10] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1977 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. From Protocol no. 13 of the Plenum Meeting of the Caucasian Bureau of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) (July 7, 1921), RGASPI, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, ll. 131–131 ob., Verified copy.
2. *Azärbaycanlıların Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyası (1948–1953-ju illär), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013),* 174.
3. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlıların 1988-ji il soyqırımı (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 102.
4. *Armianskaia SSR: Administrativno-territorial'noe delenie na 1-e marta 1964 goda.* 3rd ed. (Yerevan: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo Armenii, 1964), 199.
5. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi SSR 1972,* no. 4 (527), art. 28, 9.
6. Alakberli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlıların 1988-ji il soyqırımı*, 102.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1213-300585A018*, October 04, 1977, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus via Esri Map.
9. *WorldView-2*, Febrary 28, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-102-G (*Alaverdi*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-102 (*Alaverdi*) [map], scale 1:100000, 1976.

ID: 159
Location: Lambali village (*present-day Bagratashen village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
Azerbaijani cemetery
4.76 ha
Armenian Cemetery
0.68 ha
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 4, 1977 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

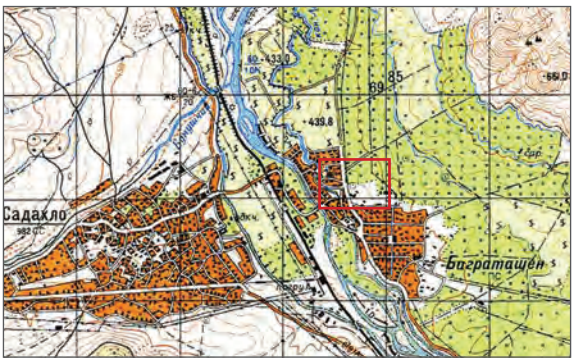

ID: 159
Location: Lambali village (*present-day Bagratashen village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
New Armenian Cemetery
1.31 ha
Cultivated area
0.24 ha
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus DS
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 159
Location: Lambali village (*present-day Bagratashen village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
New Armenian Cemetery
1.69 ha
Cultivated area
0.41 ha
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 26, 2021 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

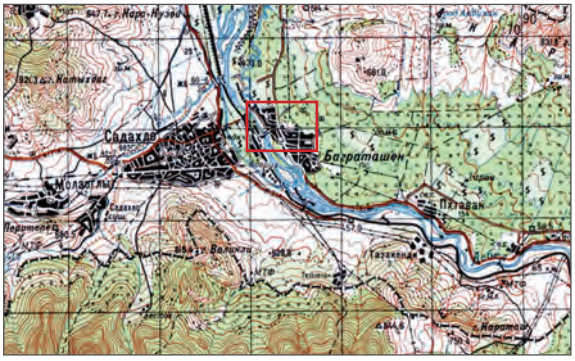
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

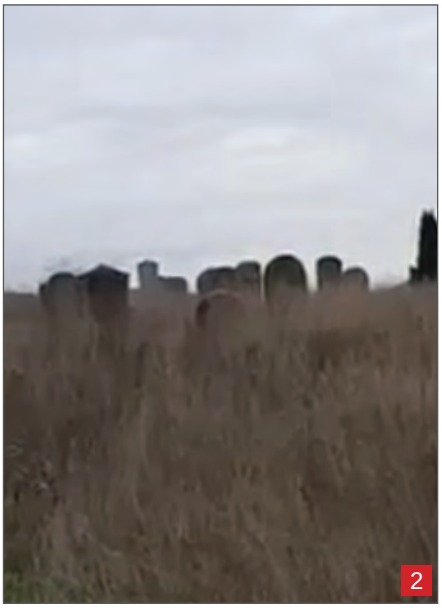


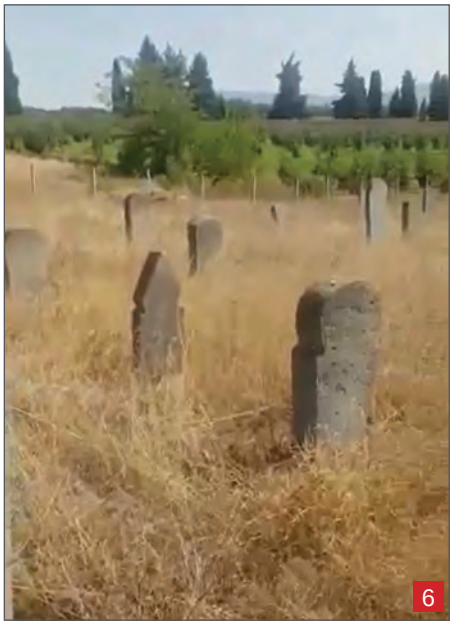
1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:





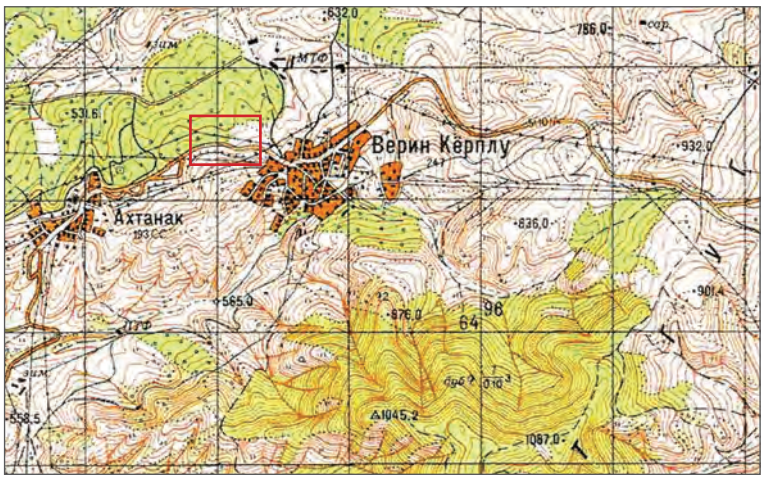
Still frames from a footage from 2021

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Korpulu Village Cemetery

Location: Barana district, Yukhari Korpulu village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Zorakap village (Armenian)
ID: 123 [MC-148], 41.223932, 44.931376



Yukhari Korpulu was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Borchali region. It was incorporated into Barana district on December 31, 1937, and later into Noyemberyan district on January 4, 1938. The village was originally known as Korpulu. In 1918, the arrival of the Ottoman army in these territories saved the village from Armenian massacres. Under the Treaty of Batum, the village's territory remained within the borders of the Republic of Georgia. Following the withdrawal of the Ottoman army from the region, the Armenia-Georgia War of December 29–31, 1918, led to Armenian aggression against the village, forcing the population to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by the Republic of Armenia. After some time, the returning population restored the village and resettled. Following the establishment of Soviet rule, on July 7, 1921, the Caucasus Bureau of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) (RKP(b)) issued a resolution to transfer many villages of the Korpulu commune, including Korpulu village, to the Armenian SSR.[1] In 1922, the village had a population of 523 Azerbaijanis. From that time onward, the newly established village near the original settlement was named Ashaghi Korpulu, while Korpulu village itself became Yukhari Korpulu. During the Soviet period, the village was renamed Verin Korpulu.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of the village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[2] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Yukhari Korpulu village was renamed Zorakap.[3]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 4, 1977[4] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2.3 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1977 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[5] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Analysis results confirm that the cemetery was completely obliterated between 1989 and 2007. Dirt roads were constructed across the western and eastern sections of the cemetery, providing access to cultivated fields. It was determined that the vast majority of tombstones previously visible in the Hexagon image were no longer present in the latter satellite imagery. However, the significant number of visible tombstones suggests that despite ongoing destruction, the cemetery had retained its structural integrity as of that date.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 and September 25, 2022[6] (Airbus) confirms that the entire cemetery was completely obliterated, except for a few piles of scattered ruins in the northwestern sector and several tombstones whose condition could not be determined.

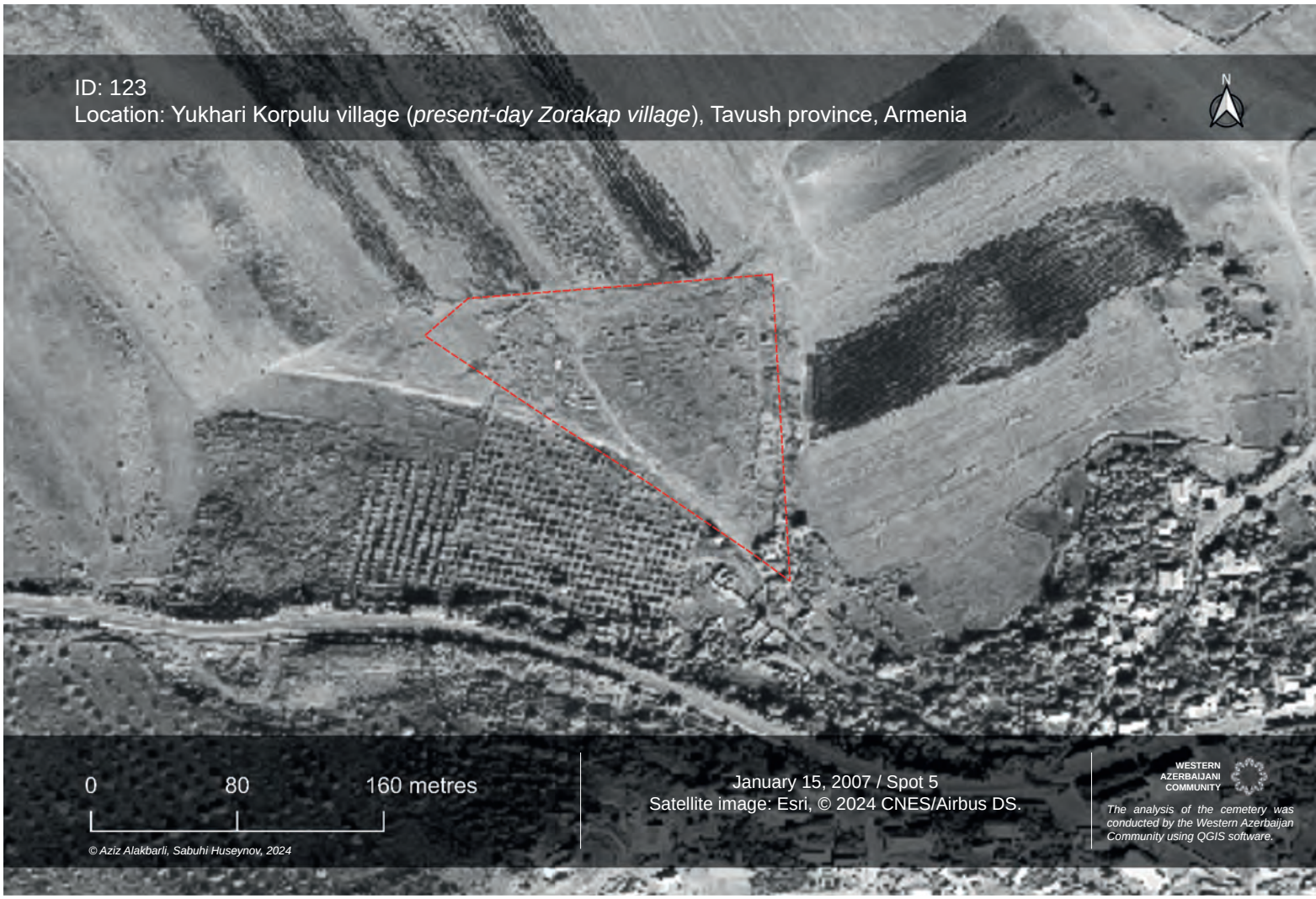
GEOLOCATION:

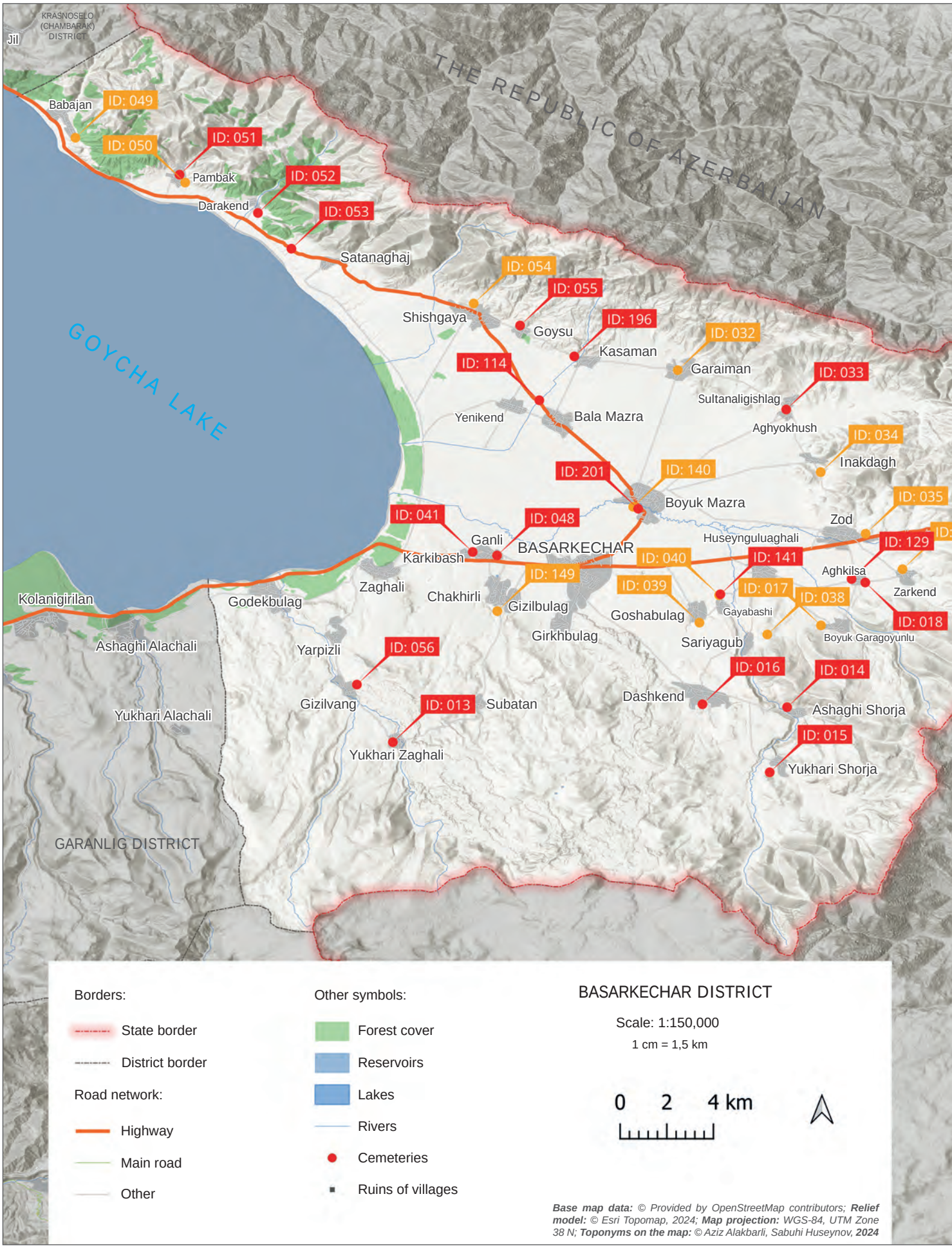
The cemetery is located 200 meters northwest of Yukhari Korpulu village on elevated terrain. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[7]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1977 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *From Protocol no. 13 of the Plenum Meeting of the Caucasian Bureau of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) (July 7, 1921), RGASPI, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, ll. 131–131 ob., Verified copy.*
2. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 175.
3. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 67.
4. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1213-300585A018*, October 04, 1977, USGS EROS Data Center.
5. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
6. September 25, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth
7. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-102-2, [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 123
Location: Yukhari Korpulu village (present-day Zorakap village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 4, 1977 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 123
Location: Yukhari Korpulu village (present-day Zorakap village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus DS.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


KRASNOSELO (CHAMBARAK) DISTRICT
Jil
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
GOYCHA LAKE
Babajan
ID: 049
ID: 050
ID: 051
Pambak
ID: 052
Darakend
ID: 053
Satanaghaj
ID: 054
ID: 055
Shishgaya
Goysu
ID: 196
Kasaman
ID: 032
Garaiman
ID: 033
Sultanaligishlag
Aghyokhush
ID: 034
Inakdagh
ID: 114
Yenikend
Bala Mazra
ID: 201
ID: 140
Boyuk Mazra
ID: 035
Zod
ID: 041
ID: 048
Ganli
BASARKECHAR
Karkibash
ID: 040
ID: 141
Huseynguluaghali
ID: 129
Aghkilsa
Zarkend
ID: 149
Zaghali
Chakhirli
Gizilbulag
ID: 039
Goshabulag
ID: 017
Gayabashi
ID: 038
ID: 018
Boyuk Garagoyunlu
Kolanigirilan
Godekbulag
Girkhbulag
Sariyagub
Ashaghi Alachali
Yarpizli
ID: 056
ID: 016
ID: 014
Dashkend
Ashaghi Shorja
Gizilvang
ID: 013
Subatan
Yukhari Alachali
ID: 015
Yukhari Zaghali
Yukhari Shorja
GARANLIG DISTRICT
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
BASARKECHAR DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

BASARKECHAR DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Goycha *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Basarkechar district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 1,151 sq. km

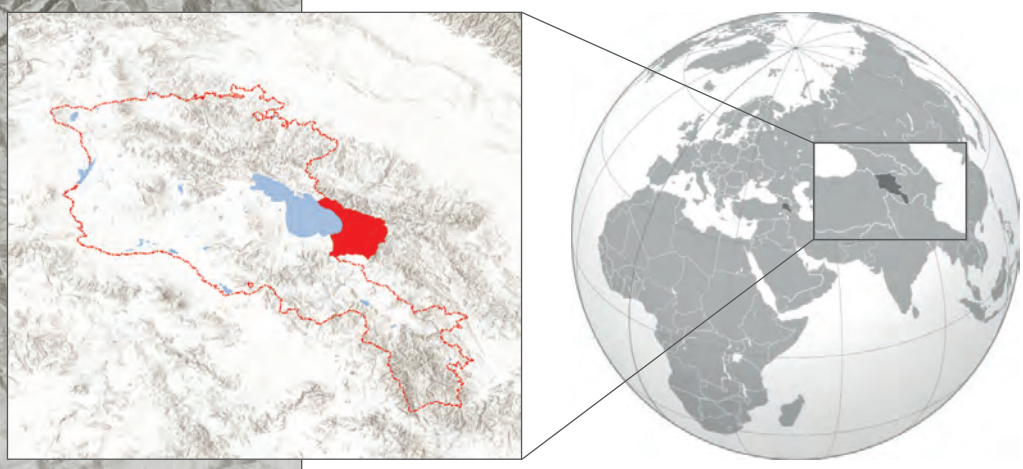
The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Basarkechar (Vardenis), located 168 km from Iravan.

By a resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated June 11, 1969, Basarkechar district and Basarkechar settlement were renamed Vardenis district and Vardenis urban-type settlement, respectively.

According to 1970 data, the district included one urban-type settlement and 39 residential settlements. The district population (*excluding Basarkechar settlement, A.A., S.H.*) was 48,700, with 300 residing in the urban-type settlement and 48,400 living in rural areas. According to 1975 data, the population of Basarkechar settlement alone was 9,000.

The villages where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 were: Garagoyunlu, Huseynguluaghali, Ashaghi Shorja, Yukhari Shorja, Dashkend, Sariyagub, Gayabashi, Goshabulag, Zarzebil, Aghkilsa, Zod, Babajan, Pambak, Dere, Shishgaya, Bala Mazra, Oghruja, Kasaman, Inakdagh, Ganli, Karkibash, Subatan, Sultanaligishlag, Aghyokhush, Satanaghaj, Yukhari Zaghali, Chakhirli, Tustulu, Boyuk Mazra, Gizilvang, Torfavan, and Goysu.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Gegharkunik province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 2018 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghkilsa Village New Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Aghkilsa village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Azat village (Armenian)
ID: 018 [MC-075], 40.1770041, 45.8761218

Aghkilsa was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was located near the Garamasu river. The name of the village appears in historical sources as a Muslim settlement dating back to the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Muslims (referred to as *"Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official records of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 515 Azerbaijani residents (referred to as "Tatars" in the source).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, Aghkilsa came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Aghkilsa within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1922, 198 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Aghkilsa was renamed Azat.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 800 Azerbaijani residents of Aghkilsa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[8]

There were two cemeteries in Aghkilsa village. The old cemetery, located in the western part of the village, included the grave of Ashiq Alasgar. The second cemetery, known as the new cemetery, was situated in the southern part of the village. The new cemetery included the Mausoleum of Mayil.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing a 0.5-hectare area in the southeastern part of the village, where a mausoleum and tombstones were documented.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 1, 2006[10] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis confirmed that the tombstones and the Mausoleum of Mayil, which were documented in the Hexagon image, had been severely damaged and destroyed. The area showed shadows of approximately 15–17 tombstones.

A further comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and 2016[11] (WorldView-2) indicated that the condition of the cemetery remained unchanged, while traces of previous destruction were more clearly visible, as they prevented intensive vegetation growth.

A comparative analysis of images dated 2016 and August 19, 2024[12] (Airbus) revealed tracks of heavy machinery (tractor or combine tracks, A.A., S.H.) crossing the cemetery area. A 2024 photograph enabled a clearer analysis. It is evident from the photo that the cemetery was obliterated, its eastern and western parts were repurposed as farmland. The section containing remnants of tombstones was used as a passage to the farmland. This analysis demonstrates that the cemetery has once again undergone structural changes and has been subjected to external impact.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the south of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *1590 Tarikhli Irävan Vilayäti Mufässäl Däftäri,* ed. Husamäddin Garamanlï; transcr. and trans. by Husamäddin Garamanlï and Mehmed Alauddin Islamoghlu (Baku: Elm, 2023), 503.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 84
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Molla Alishraf Haji Molla Rahimzadeh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 110-111.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 217.
8. Postanovlenie prezidiuma Tsentral'nogo ispolnitel'nogo komiteta SSR Armenii, 3 yanvarya 1935 g., *Kommunist"*, Erivan, 5 January 1935, №5 (146), 3.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *WorldView-2*, October 05, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. August 19, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-140-B (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 018
Location: Aghkilsa village (present-day Azat village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 018
Location: Aghkilsa village (present-day Azat village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

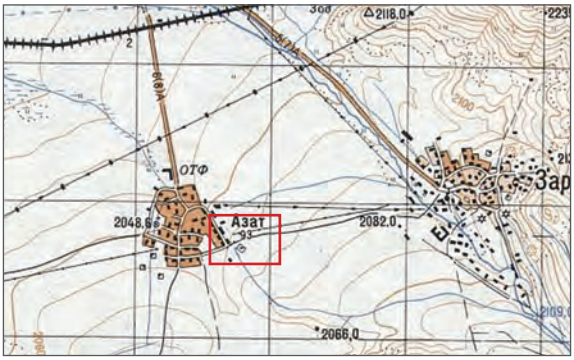
ID: 018
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Azat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 018
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Azat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

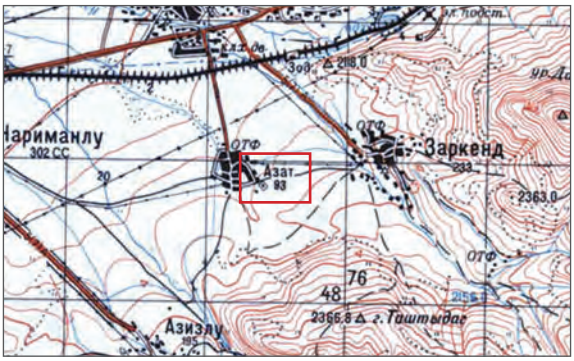
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2005

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghkilsa village, Ashiq Alasgar's Grave

Location: Basarkechar district, Aghkilsa village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Azat village (Armenian)
ID: 129 [MC-555], 40.178730, 45.869260

The distinguished representative of Azerbaijani Ashiq Art and a master of words, Ashiq Alasgar, was buried in 1926 in the old cemetery of Aghkilsa village, his birthplace. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Aghkilsa village was renamed Azat.[1] In 1972, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Ashiq Alasgar, a grave monument was erected over his grave. This monument was documented in various photographs and video recordings during the Soviet era. In 1979, Ashiq Alasgar's son, Ashiq Talib, was also buried next to him. A Soviet-era photograph in the possession of the authors reveals that the grave monument was enclosed by an iron railings.

Ashiq Alasgar established a significant school of poetry, and his legacy has become an integral part of the national and cultural identity of the Azerbaijani people, living on as a symbol of historical memory.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November–December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Aghkilsa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[2] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing a 0.425-hectare area in the western part of the village, where the tombstone monuments of Ashiq Alasgar and his son Ashiq Talib were documented.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and February 11, 2005[3] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis confirmed that the grave monument of Ashiq Alasgar, which was documented in the Hexagon image, had been destroyed before 2005. The shadow of Ashiq Ali's tombstone, located north of this monument, was identified, confirming that it remained standing until at least 2005. Due to the image being taken in snowy conditions, it was not possible to detect other tombstones. However, the image also confirmed that, except for the 1,200-square-meter enclosed area where Ashiq Ali's tombstone was located, the rest of the old cemetery had been repurposed for other uses.

A comparative analysis of both images conducted by the authors revealed that in 2005, a new road was constructed across the old cemetery, running from east to west.

To determine whether Ashiq Talib's grave remained intact or had been destroyed, the authors employed the shadow analysis method in satellite imagery. For this method, it was crucial to know both the time the satellite image was taken and the angle of the satellite's capture. The analysis of the image captured by the QuickBird-2 satellite on June 15, 2006,[4] suggests that the shadow visible to the north corresponds to a tombstone approximately 1 meter or taller, indicating that the tombstone was still intact at that time.

A comparative analysis of subsequent satellite imagery dated 2016[5] (WorldView-2) and 2024[6] (Airbus) confirmed that the cemetery area had been repurposed for household plots, vegetable gardens, or other agricultural use.

Photographic evidence documenting the cemetery's current condition further corroborates these findings. These photos clearly show that Ashiq Alasgar's grave monument and bust have been completely destroyed (Images Nos. 4-5). Satellite imagery confirms that this destruction occurred before 2005. Both satellite and photographic images indicate that Ashiq Talib's tombstone remains intact for now (Images Nos. 4,6). However, photographic evidence reveals an act of vandalism that was not visible in the satellite imagery. The iron fencing surrounding the tombstone was looted, and the inscription and portrait of the deceased on the tombstone were scraped off and erased.

GEOLOCATION:

The old cemetery, where Ashiq Alasgar's grave is located, is situated in the western part of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1954 (1:25,000 scale)[7], 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[8], and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[9]. Using the coordinates from the 1954 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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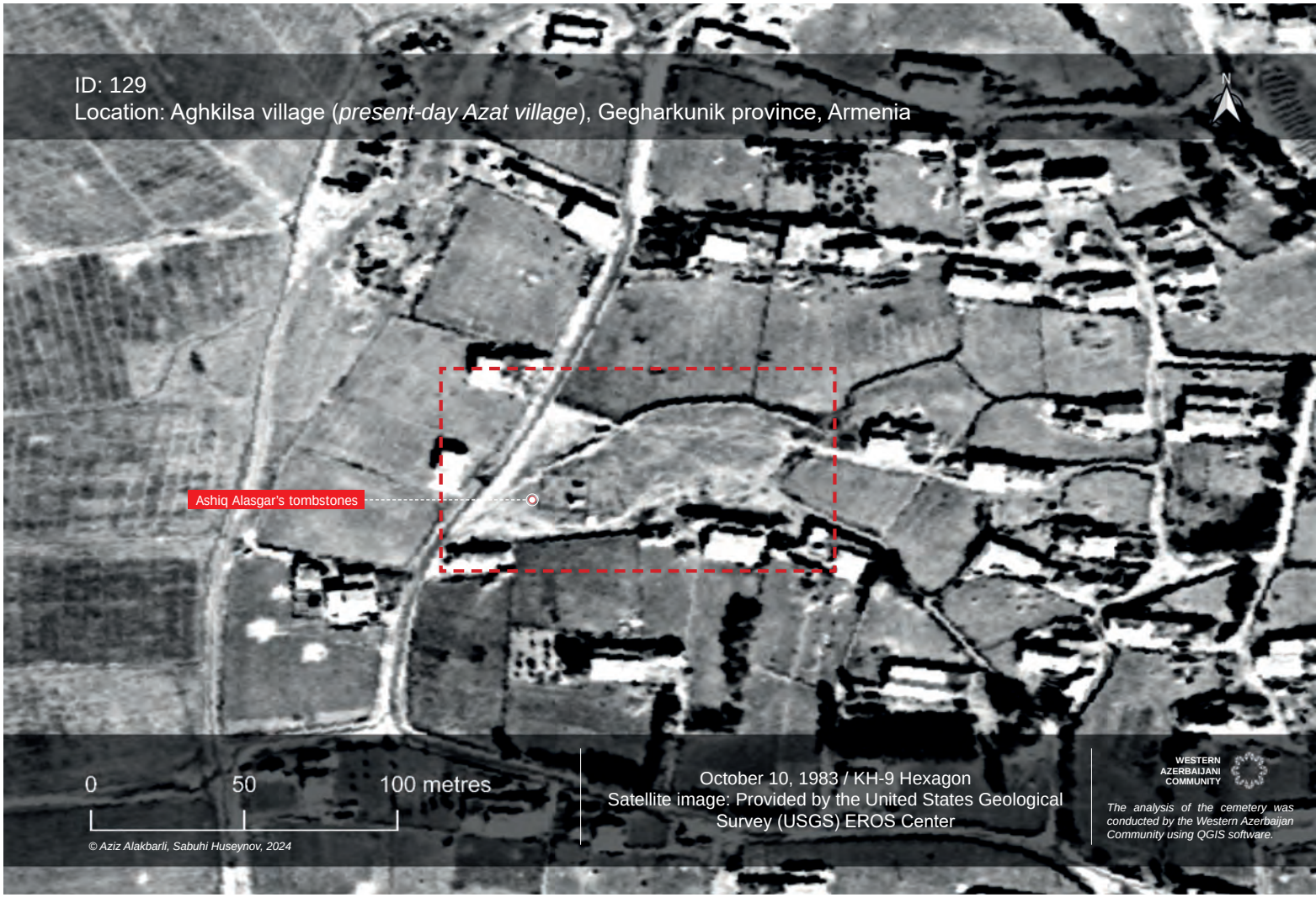
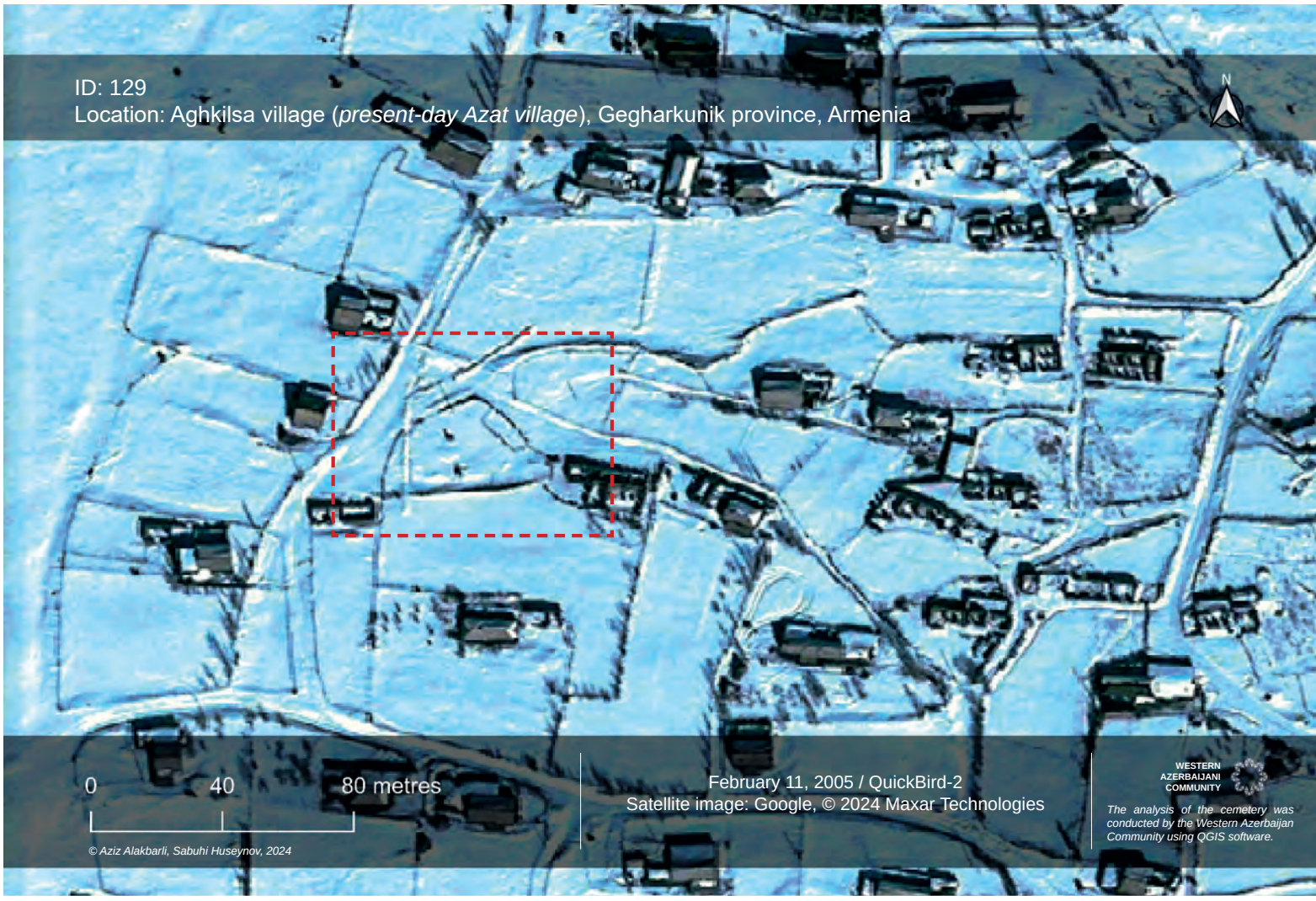
3. *QuickBird-2*, February 11, 2005, Maxar via Google Earth.
4. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
5. *WorldView-2*, October 05, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
6. August 19, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
7. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-B-в [map], scale 1:25,000, 1954.
8. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-B (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.


ID: 129
Location: Aghkilsa village (present-day Azat village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Ashiq Alasgar's tombstones
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 129
Location: Aghkilsa village (present-day Azat village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 11, 2005 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 129
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Azat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

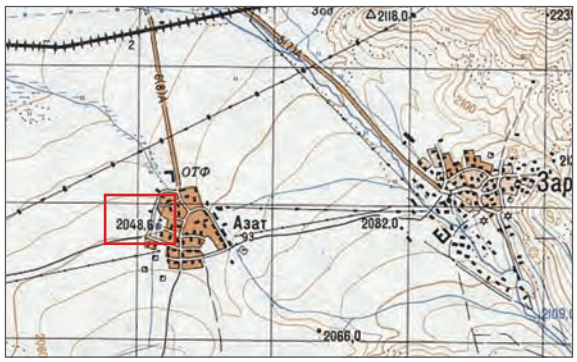
ID: 129
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Azat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 129
Location: Aghkilsa village (present-day Azat village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

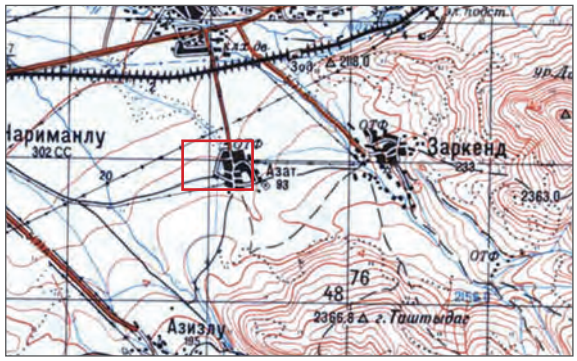
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY

1

2

3

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

4

5

6

From 2021 to 2024

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghyokhush Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Aghyokhush village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Zariver village (Armenian)
ID: 033 [MC-034], 40.263678, 45.836516

Aghyokhush was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located southeast of Lake Goycha, near Janahmad village. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. According to the cadastral-administrative survey of 1831, the village had 192 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records do not mention the village, suggesting that it may have been merged with the nearby Janahmad village.

From May 28, 1918, onward, Janahmad village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the inhabitants of Aghyokhush, like those of Janahmad, were forced to flee due to Armenian attack, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Janahmad village within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1922, Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resumed their lives.[5] In 1936–1937, some Azerbaijani residents from Subatan village of Goycha were relocated to Aghyokhush village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. Within the same period, 400 Azerbaijani residents of Aghyokhush village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Aghyokhush village was renamed Zariver.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones in a 1.62-hectare area on a high hill.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, top) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirm that by 2006, the cemetery had suffered severe destruction, with all tombstones in the eastern section completely destroyed. Additionally, three trenches were dug in the southern part of the cemetery.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and 2009[10] (GeoEye-1) revealed shadows of approximately 20 tombstones and alterations in the area.

Further analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 and October 17, 2021[11] (CNES/Airbus) showed that no significant changes had occurred in the cemetery area, confirming that after the destruction, the site remained stable. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2021 and July 11, 2024,[12] (Airbus) revealed that new excavations had been carried out in the northern part of the cemetery, involving earthmoving and levelling operations and trench construction. A 2024 photograph confirmed the findings of the satellite imagery (Image No.1).

Thus, while the cemetery suffered extensive destruction between 1988 and 2006 and remained relatively stable in the following years, the latest satellite imagery confirms that it has been almost entirely destroyed. A large number of tombstones have disappeared, and the site has been repurposed for military use. As a result, the cemetery's cultural heritage value has been completely erased, and the area has been repurposed.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located north of the village, on the eastern slope of a high hill. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1954 (1:25,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1954 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. Molla Alishraf Haji Molla Rahimzadeh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
4. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 231.
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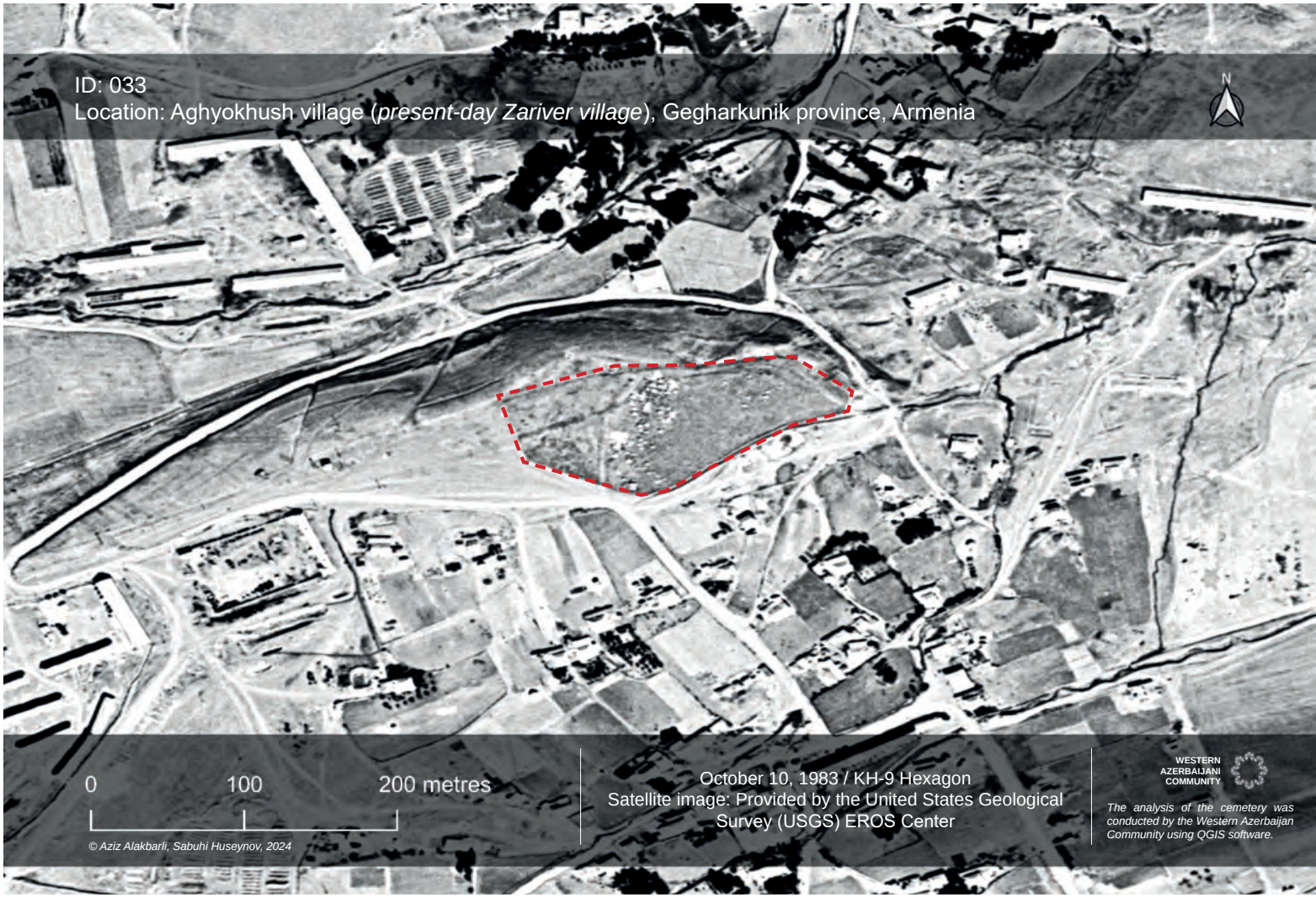
9. QuickBird-2, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. GeoEye-1, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. WorldView-2, October 17, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. July 11, 2024, Source: Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-B-a (*Karaiman*) [map], 1:25,000, 1954.


ID: 033
Location: Aghyokhush village (*present-day Zariver village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 033
Location: Aghyokhush village (*present-day Zariver village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 033
Location: Aghyokhush village (*present-day Zariver village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

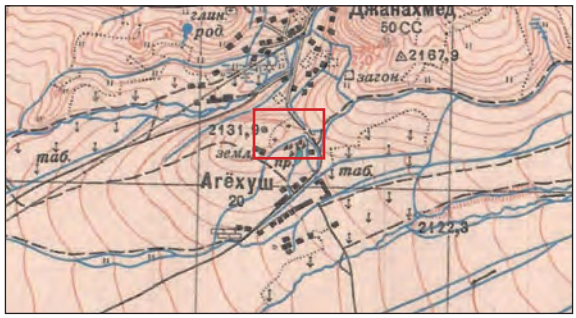
ID: 033
Location: Aghyokhush village (*present-day Zariver village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 17, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 033
Location: Aghyokhush village (*present-day Zariver village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 11, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1954

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1954 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 1990

Status: OBLITERATED

Ashaghi Shorja Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Ashaghi Shorja village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Nerkin Shorzha village (Armenian)
ID: 014 [MC-348], 40.114605, 45.836981

Ashaghi Shorja was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, situated on the right bank of the Mazra river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was also known by other names, including Yeni Keyti, Ashaghi Keyti, and Salmankend. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 910 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Gozaldere village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] From April 13 to 20, 1919, Ashaghi Shorja came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Ashaghi Shorja within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 394 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resumed their lives.[5] During Soviet rule, the village was renamed Nerkin Shorzha.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November–December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Ashaghi Shorja village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

In the village cemetery stood three mausoleums of Molla Bashir, Abbasali, and Karam, residents of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and the three mausoleums over a 0.67-hectare area.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[8] (QuickBird-2) (at right, top) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirm that the cemetery had suffered severe destruction by 2006. The analysis confirmed that by 2006, earthmoving and excavations had been carried out in six locations in the northeastern part of the Ashaghi Shorja cemetery. These earthmoving operations consisted of trenches measuring 6 meters in width. The excavations resulted in the complete destruction of the mausoleums within the cemetery. An analysis of the displaced soil around the trenches, particularly the intensive growth patterns of vegetation, suggests that these excavations likely took place in the 1990s. These excavations disrupted the cemetery's structure and led to its destruction. Despite the destruction, several damaged

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tombstones remained in the western and northwestern parts of the cemetery. In the following years, the cemetery area remained unchanged, with the shadows of approximately 10 tombstones in the northern and northwestern sections still visible to the present day. All other graves were destroyed, with fragments of tombstones scattered throughout the area.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 250 meters northeast of the village, on elevated terrain. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[9] and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[10]. Using the coordinates from the 1973 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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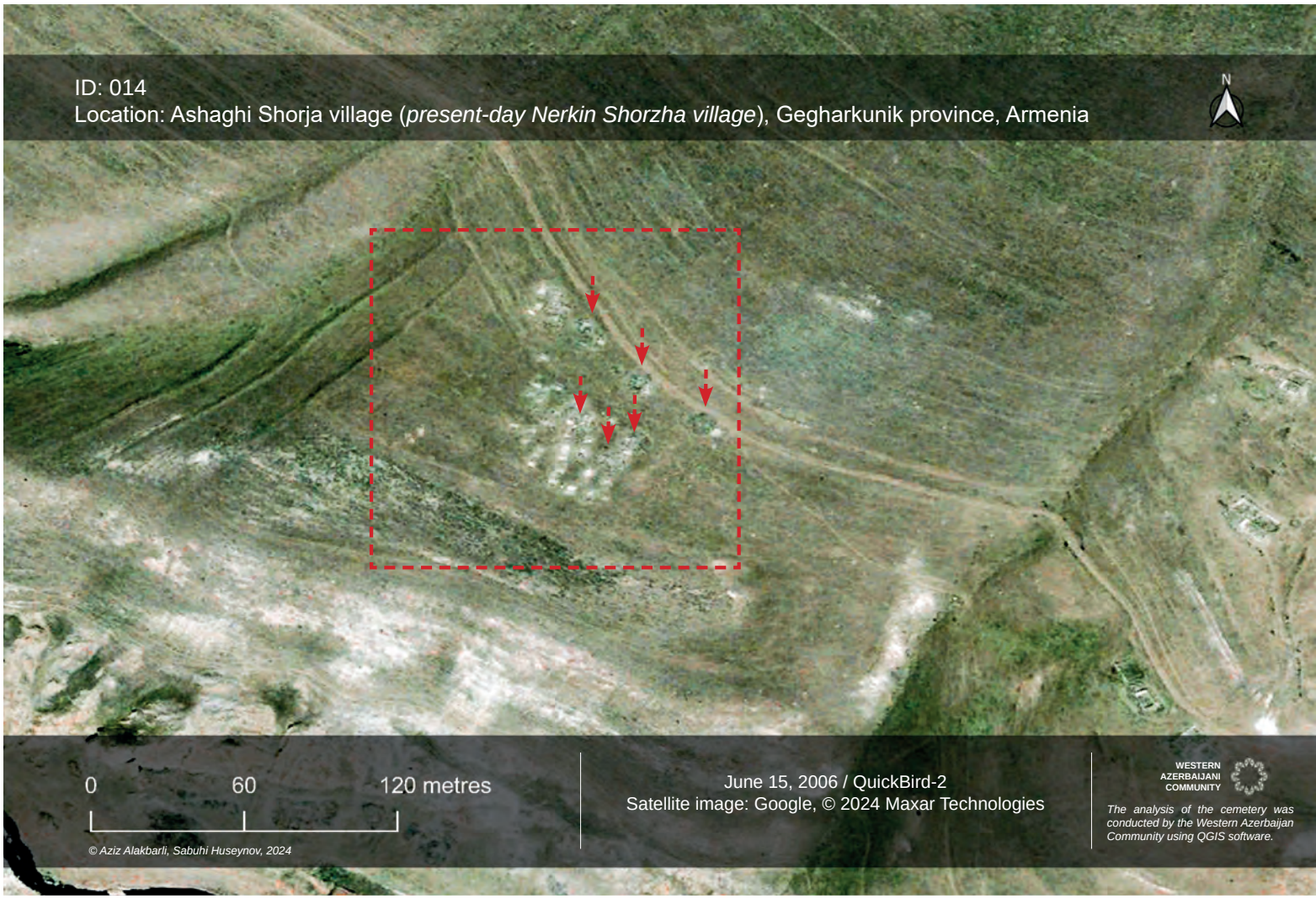
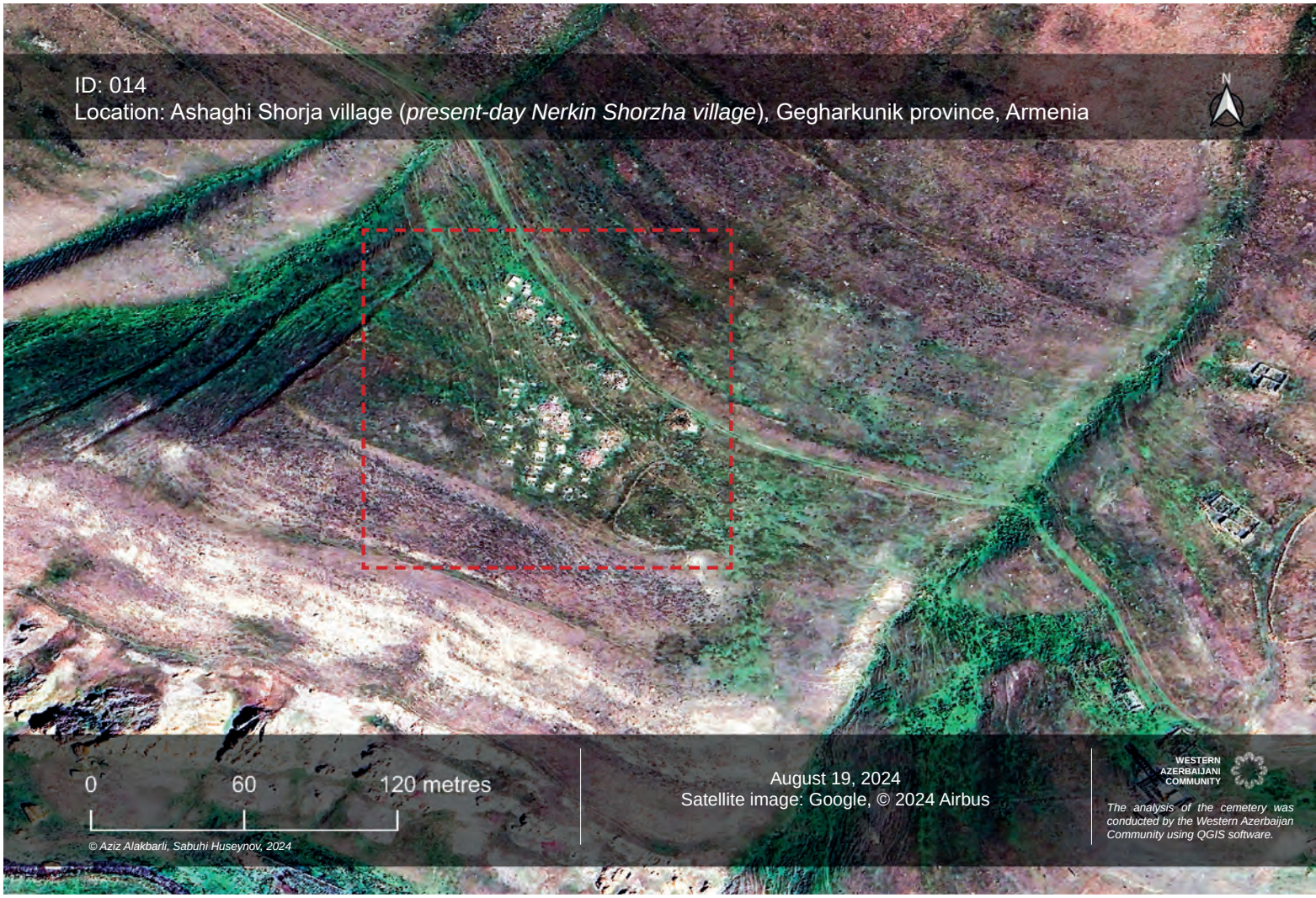
4. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 110-111.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 210.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
9. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, K-38-140-G (*Dashkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1973.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 014
Location: Ashaghi Shorja village (present-day Nerkin Shorzha village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 014
Location: Ashaghi Shorja village (present-day Nerkin Shorzha village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 014
Location: Ashaghi Shorja village (*present-day Nerkin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 014
Location: Ashaghi Shorja village (*present-day Nerkin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 014
Location: Ashaghi Shorja village (*present-day Nerkin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

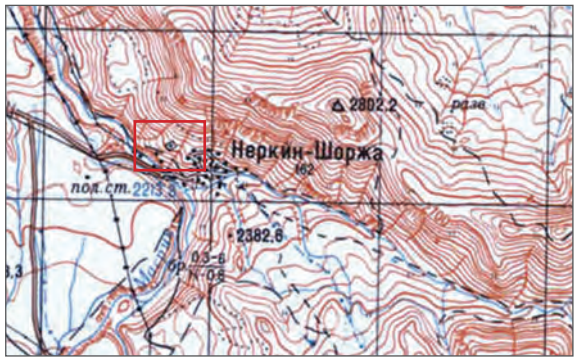
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1973

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1973 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2021

Status: DESTROYED

Babajan Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Babajan village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Tsapatagh village (Armenian)
ID: 049 [MC-067], 40.3998281, 45.48043708

Babajan was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the eastern shore of Lake Goycha. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village's name appears in historical sources as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] The village was originally called Babajan deresi. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *265 Azerbaijani* residents (referred to as *"Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Babajan village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In April-May 1919, the inhabitants of Babajan were forced to flee due to an Armenian attack, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Babajan village within its new administrative boundaries.5 In 1921-1922, 309 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resumed their lives.[6] In 1950–1951, a part of its population was relocated to Garaiman village, which had been partially abandoned. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 15, 1978, the village was renamed Gizilkend.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Babajan village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Babajan village was renamed Tsapatagh.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing that it spanned an area of 0.8 hectares, with tombstones exhibiting heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 23, 2021[11] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirm that the cemetery had suffered severe destruction by 2021. This was also confirmed by photographs taken at the cemetery (Images Nos. 1-10). Through the analysis of these photographs, the authors identified acts of vandalism targeting tombstones. The analysis further indicates that all portraits on the tombstones had been deliberately erased. Despite this destruction, shadows of a few remaining tombstones can still be identified in satellite imagery. The cemetery has retained its general layout.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on a slope in the southern part of the village. This site was not marked on any of the topographic maps examined by the authors in this research. By comparing the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon image with modern satellite imagery from WorldView-2, the authors were able to identify the cemetery and determine its precise coordinates.

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10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-2*, September 23, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.

ID: 049
Location: Babajan village (*present-day Tsapatagh village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 049
Location: Babajan village (*present-day Tsapatagh village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 23, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

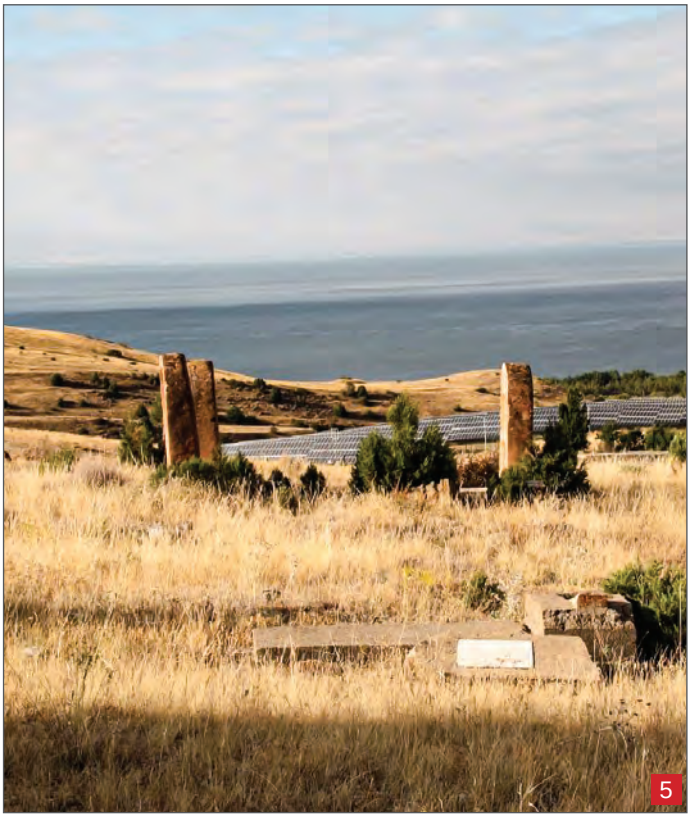
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4


5

© Armen Marsoobian, 2022

6

7

8

9

10

© Armen Marsoobian, 2022

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Bala Mazra Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Bala Mazra village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Pokr Masrik village (Armenian)
ID: 114 [MC-437], 40.268298, 45.712841

Bala Mazra was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Mazra plain. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Cadastral-administrative surveys, along with statistical records, demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *1,373 Azerbaijani* (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Bala Mazra village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Bala Mazra within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 359 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In 1952, 243 residents were deported to Kangarli village of Mirbashir district (*now Tartar district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR, and subsequently, a new village named Tezekend was established.[7] During the Soviet period, Bala Mazra village was renamed Pokr Mazra.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Bala Mazra village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Bala Mazra village was renamed Pokr Masrik.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones over a 2.4-hectare area.

A comparative spatial analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirmed that by 2006, the cemetery had been reduced to an area of only 0.86 hectares, with 64.14% of the site cleared of tombstones and converted into agricultural land.

Further analysis comparing the 2006 image with satellite imagery dated 2009[11] (GeoEye-1) and 2010[12] (GeoEye-1) revealed that destruction within the remaining cemetery area continued during this period. The 2024[13] satellite image (Airbus) showed that only 28 tombstones cast visible shadows, confirming that the destruction had reached its final stage.

On May 8, 2021, N. Danielyan asserted that the Bala Mazra cemetery had not been subjected to destruction by Armenians and that any observed damage was solely attributable to natural factors and the passage of time[14]. However, the photographs provided by A. Nersesyan in support of this claim clearly depict shattered tombstones, defaced portraits, and bullet impact (Images Nos. 1-5, 7-10). These findings indicate extensive vandalism and acts of deliberate destruction targeting cultural heritage within the 0.86-hectare site. On April 14, 2024, Rasmus Canback published a new photograph, further corroborating the evidence of vandalism (Image No. 6).

Thus, visual analyses confirm that one of the main Azerbaijani cemeteries in the region was destroyed by 2006, that destruction continued in the remaining intact section after 2006, and that photographs from 2024 indicate the tombstones reaching their final stage of deterioration. These findings confirm that the Armenian side deliberately committed acts of violence against the cemetery and inflicted damage on cultural heritage. As a result, spatial analysis and photographic evidence reveal that these events reflect large-scale vandalism and aggression against cultural heritage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 390 meters north of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Hexagon imagery dated 1983 and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, August 26, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *GeoEye-1*, August 05, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
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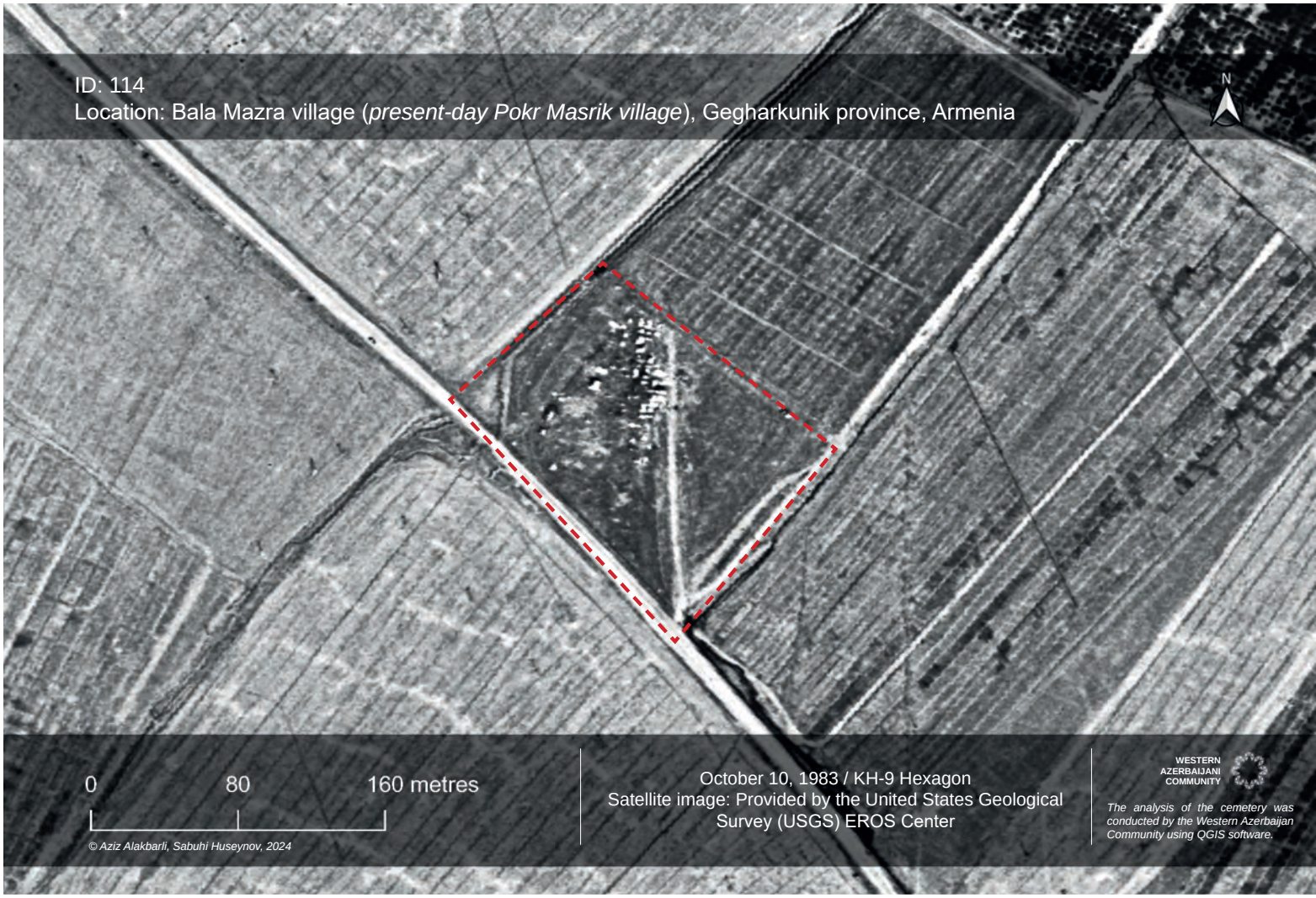
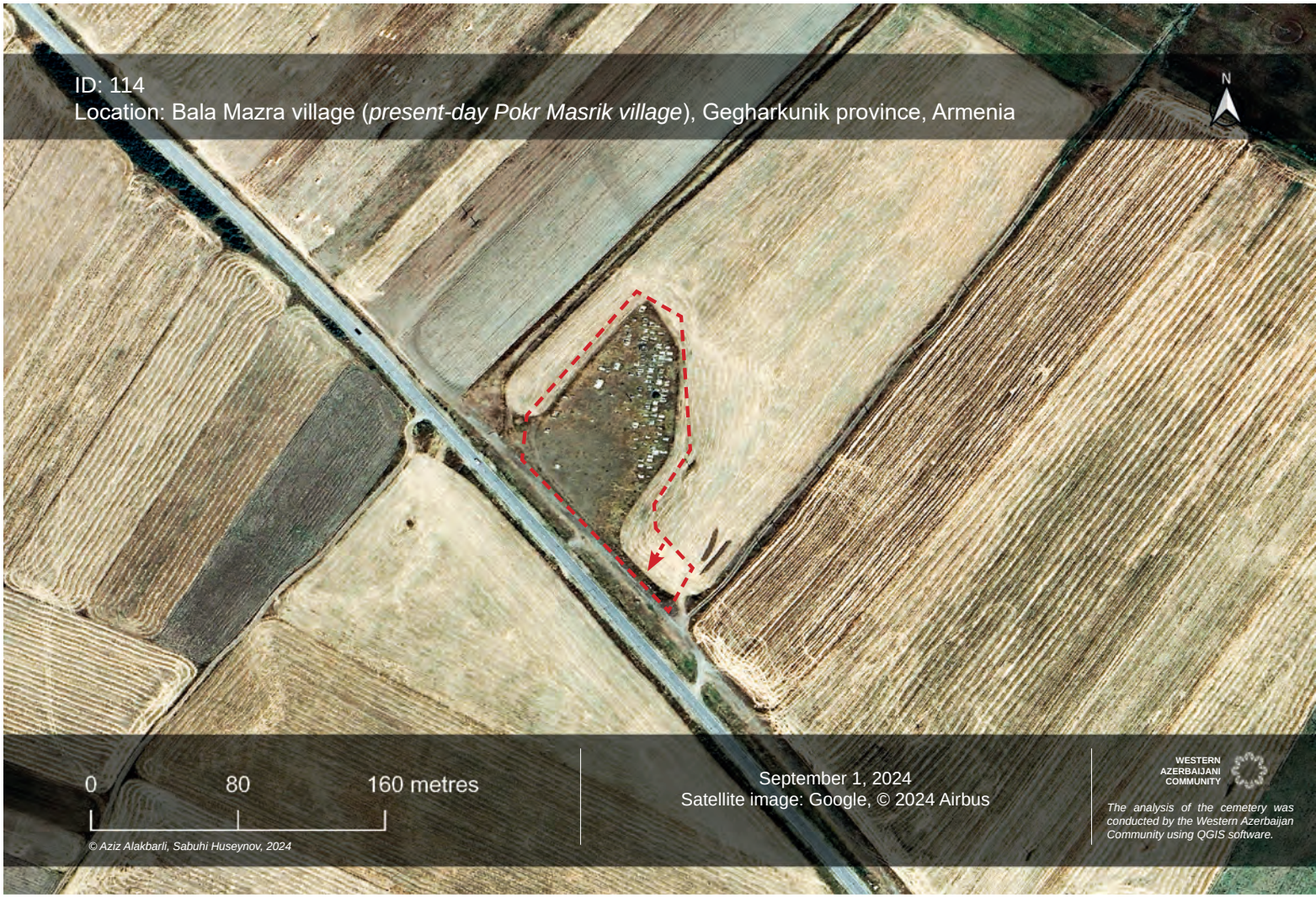

ID: 114
Location: Bala Mazra village (*present-day Pokr Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 114
Location: Bala Mazra village (*present-day Pokr Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Agricultural Land (Former Cemetery)
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 114
Location: Bala Mazra village (present-day Pokr Masrik village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

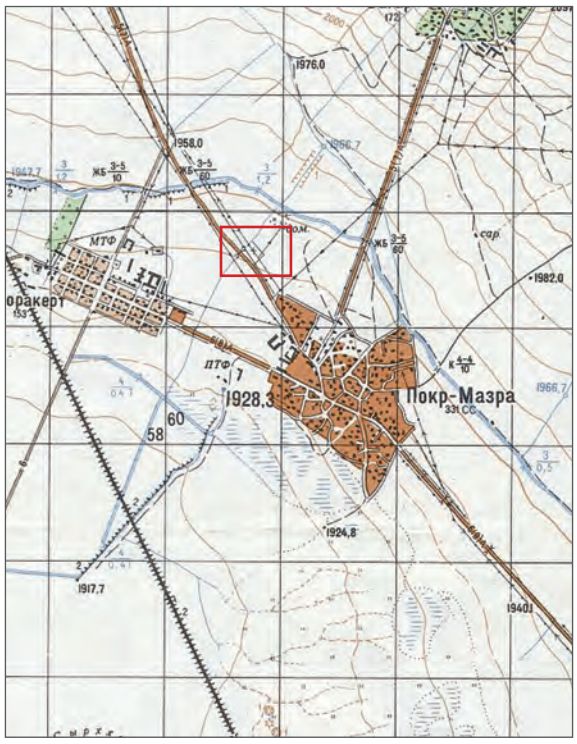
ID: 114
Location: Bala Mazra village (present-day Pokr Masrik village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 5, 2010 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 114
Location: Bala Mazra village (*present-day Pokr Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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© **Sputnik Armenia:** Aram Nersesyan, may, 2021

© **X:** Rasmus Canback, April, 2024

© **Sputnik Armenia:** Aram Nersesyan, may, 2021

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Boyuk Mazra Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Boyuk Mazra village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Medz Masrik village (Armenian)
ID: 140 [MC-036], 40.214914, 45.759854

Boyuk Mazra was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Mazra plain. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was also known as Guluaghali. Historical sources mention the village since the early 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *1,970 Azerbaijani* (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 14 to 15, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4,5] 552 Armenians were relocated to the village. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Boyuk Mazra within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 572 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] In 1953, 90 residents were deported to the Borsunlu village of Mirbashir district (*now Tartar district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] During the Soviet period, Boyuk Mazra village was renamed Medz Mazra.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 2,500 Azerbaijani residents of Boyuk Mazra village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Boyuk Mazra village was renamed Medz Masrik.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and two mausoleums over a 3.58-hectare area. The cemetery was surrounded by a trench. Five anchor points for power transmission lines were located in the area.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that by 2006, earthmoving activities and new road construction had taken place in the northern part of the cemetery. It is presumed that this road was built to allow access for agricultural machinery to the fields. It was determined that both mausoleums that were visible in the 1983 image, as well as the tombstones located in the eastern section of the cemetery were destroyed.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006, 2009[13] (GeoEye-1), and 2024[14] (CNES/Airbus) identified the shadows of approximately 50 headstones, indicating that they remained standing as of the recorded dates. No structural modifications within the cemetery area were detected during this period. Additionally, scholarly publications document acts of vandalism in the area, including the breaking of tombstones, their defacement by gunfire, and the carving out of the eyes in human depictions on the tombstones.[15]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated 100 meters to the right of the bridge section of the M18 highway leading to the city of Basarkechar. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Teleg-agir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
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ID: 140
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 140
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

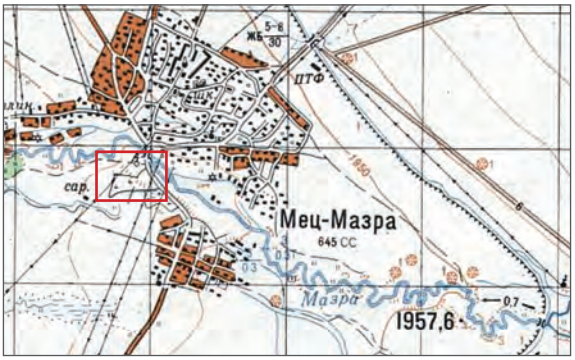
ID: 140
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 140
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

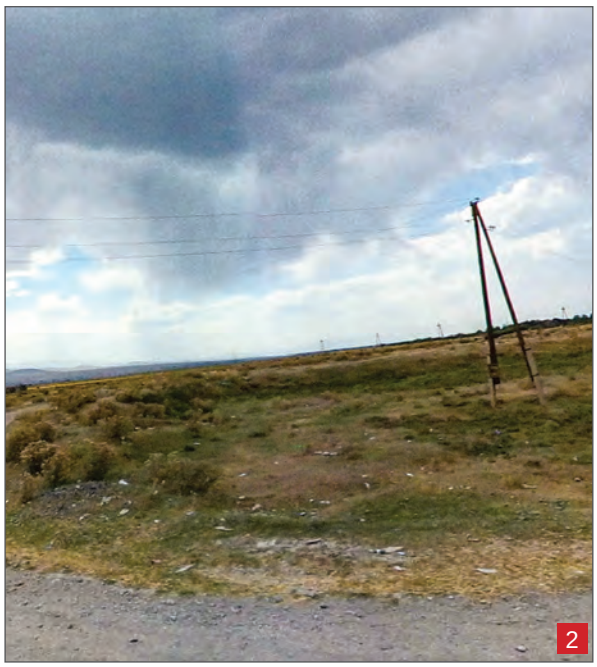
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024



Google © 2024, Armenia360, 2017

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Boyuk Mazra Village Old Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Boyuk Mazra village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Medz Masrik village (Armenian)
ID: 201 [MC-423], 40.213944, 45.762361

Boyuk Mazra was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Mazra plain. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was also known as Guluaghali. Historical sources mention the village from the early 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,970 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 14 to 15, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4,5] 552 Armenians were relocated to the village. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Boyuk Mazra within its new administrative boundaries.6 In 1921, 572 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] In 1953, 90 residents were deported to Borsunlu village of Mirbashir district (*now Tartar district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] During the Soviet period, Boyuk Mazra village was renamed Medz Mazra.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 2,500 Azerbaijani residents of Boyuk Mazra village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Boyuk Mazra village was renamed Medz Masrik.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) used for spatial analysis revealed two separate old cemeteries in the village. Based on this Hexagon image, the area's landscape features were examined, establishing that the first cemetery covered 0.54 hectares, while the second cemetery spanned 1.02 hectares. In both cemeteries, the heterogeneous characteristics and patchy surface pattern typical of old graves were distinctly visible against the surrounding landscape. In the southeastern part of the second cemetery, it was even possible to identify tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that by 2006, the first cemetery had been cleared and new construction was carried out on the site. Although the second cemetery remained, residential yards had been expanded from the south and southeast, encroaching on the cemetery's territory. A comparative analysis of the 2006 and 2009[13] (GeoEye-1) satellite imagery demonstrated that, after the destruction of the first cemetery, a fuel station was constructed on its site. As for the second cemetery, it was completely cleared, and its land was presumably repurposed for various uses.

Further comparisons of 2009 and 2024[14] (CNES/Airbus) satellite imagery confirmed yet again that 90–100% of the territory of both cemeteries had already been destroyed many years earlier.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated 260 meters to the south of the bridge section of the M18 highway leading to the city of Basarkechar, on the right side of the highway. This site was marked as a large cemetery on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. Molla Alishraf Haji Molla Rahimzadeh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
5. Copy of telegram from General Pirumov in Novo-Bayazet to General Silikov, April 14, 1919, NAA, f. 199, op. 1, d. 48, l. 9.
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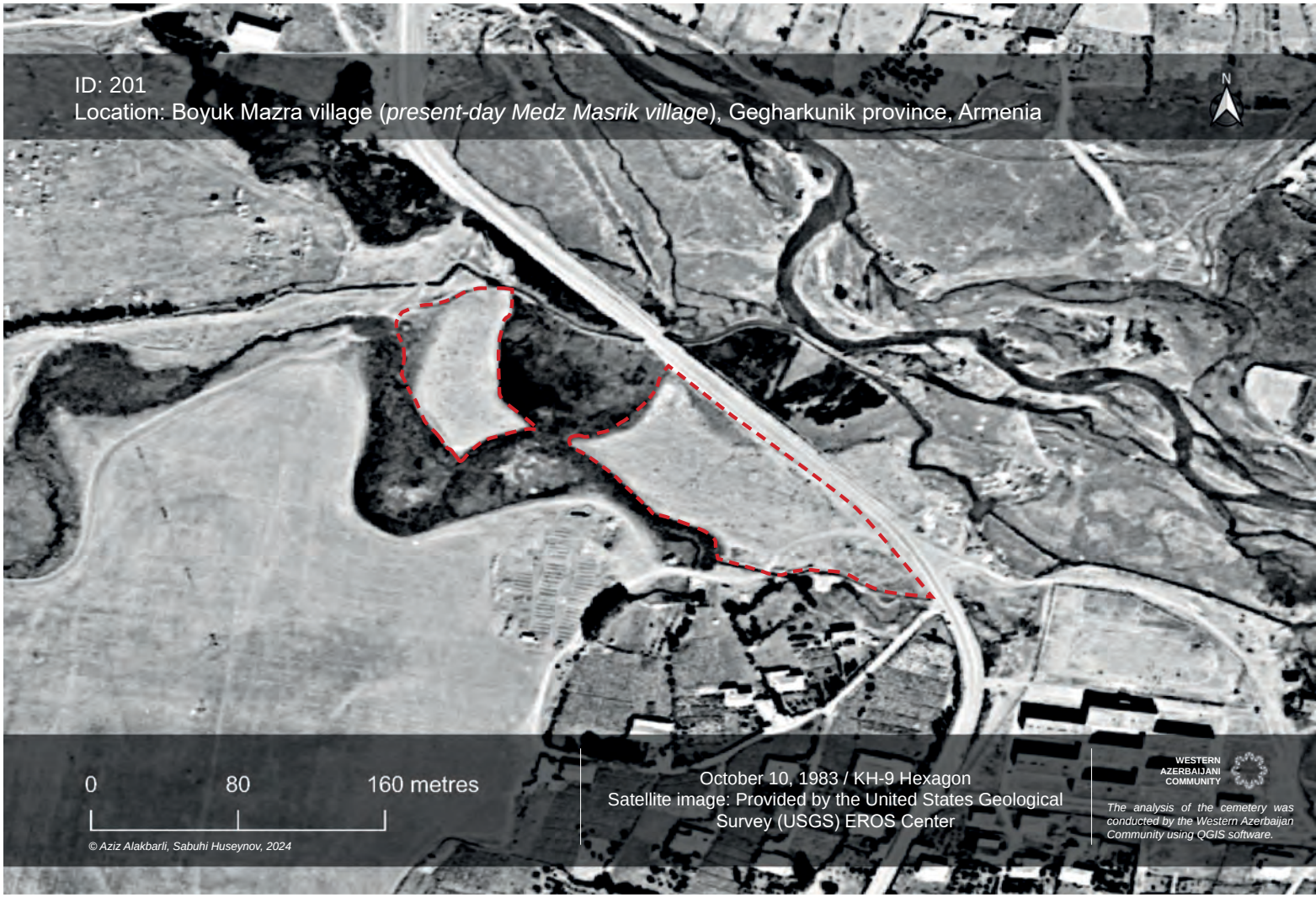
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
11. KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *QuickBird-2*, August 26, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. September 01, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
15. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-140-*B* (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.


ID: 201
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 201
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
New construction
Garden plots encroach
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

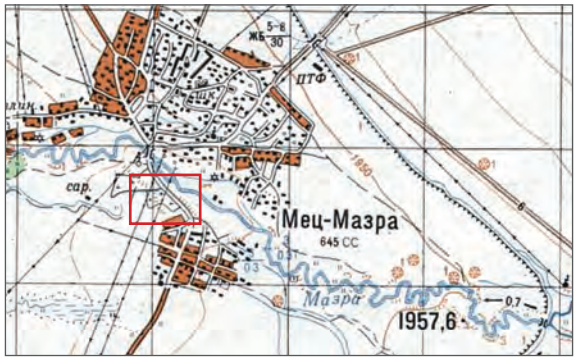
ID: 201
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Fuel station on cemetery
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 201
Location: Boyuk Mazra village (*present-day Medz Masrik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Garden plots encroach
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

Google © 2024, Armenia360 /July, 2024

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Boyuk Garagoyunlu Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Boyuk Garagoyunlu village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Norabak village (Armenian)
ID: 017 [MC-338], 40.1555198, 45.8539333

Boyuk Garagoyunlu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, in the west of the Goycha mountain range, at the foot of Chalmali mountain. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969.The original name of Boyuk Garagoyunlu village was Yengija Garagoyunlu or Yellija Garagoyunlu.[1] The village had a summer pasture called *Gataryurd* located on Chalmali mountain.[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *655 Azerbaijani* (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Boyuk Garagoyunlu village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Boyuk Garagoyunlu within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 392 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Boyuk Garagoyunlu was renamed Azizli.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Boyuk Garagoyunlu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Boyuk Garagoyunlu village was renamed Norabak.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones in a 1.2-hectare area, primarily located in the western and central sections. In the eastern section, the area was marked by heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern. At that time, the cemetery was adjacent to residential yards on its eastern and southern sides and was enclosed by a protective fence.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings showed that, by 2006, a portion of the southern area of the cemetery had been cleared and repurposed as an expanded yard for a neighboring residential house. Many of the tombstones visible in the 1983 image had disappeared. In the central section of the cemetery, it appears that earthmoving activities were undertaken at the spot where a mausoleum was visible in the 1983 image.

A comparative analysis of the 2006 and 2009[13] (GeoEye-1) satellite imagery revealed no structural changes in the area. Photographs of the village cemetery taken in 2024 enabled an assessment of its most recent condition. Analysis of these photographs indicated that 23 tombstones had survived to the present day (Images Nos. 1-6).

The findings of the authors' analyses indicate that from 1989 to 2006, the mausoleums and tombstones in the cemetery suffered severe destruction.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated on elevated terrain in the west of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1973 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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12. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009 Source: Maxar via Google Earth.
14. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, K-38-140-G (*Dashkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1973.
15. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 017
Location: Boyuk Garagoyunlu village (present-day Norabak village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 017
Location: Boyuk Garagoyunlu village (present-day Norabak village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

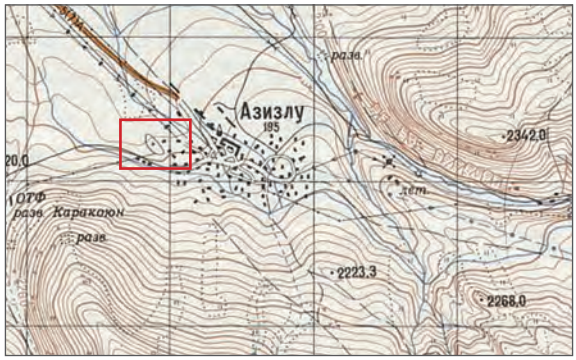
ID: 017
Location: Boyuk Garagoyunlu village (*present-day Norabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 017
Location: Boyuk Garagoyunlu village (*present-day Norabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

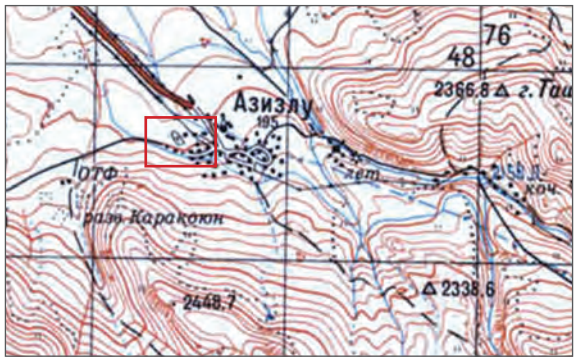
1973

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1973 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

The photographs were taken in 2024.

From 2018 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Dashkend Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Dashkend village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Ayrk village (Armenian)
ID: 016 [MC-331], 40.1161058, 45.7945707

Dashkend was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), Dashkend village had *1,389 Azerbaijani* (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Dashkend village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as a *disputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, Dashkend came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4,5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Dashkend within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 882 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] In 1953, 583 residents of the village were deported to Shirvanli village in the Barda district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of the village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Dashkend village was renamed Ayrk.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones over a 2-hectare area in two separate cemeteries located in the southern part of the village.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 5, 2009[12] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirm that the cemetery had suffered significant alterations. Video footage from 2014 corroborates these data.

Comparative analyses of satellite imagery dated 2009 and 2016[13] (CNES/Airbus) and images dated 2016 and 2018 (CNES/Airbus) revealed further destruction in the area. Most of the tombstones were either damaged or completely removed. The largest number of disappeared tombstones is evident in the 2018 images.[14]

A further comparative analysis of the images dated 2018 and 2021[15] (CNES/Airbus) showed heavy earthmoving at both cemeteries, which had also been used for military purposes. Several locations where grave markers once stood had been excavated to form trenches for tanks or other military vehicles.

Thus, comparison of satellite imagery and video recordings from different periods indicates that cemetery destruction began after 1989 and worsened between 2009 and 2016. Structural changes began in 2018, but few graves still remain. The most recent imagery, as well as photographic evidence from 2024 suggest that the cemetery was almost entirely destroyed, with numerous tombstones missing and the land used for military purposes (Images Nos. 1-3, 6). As a result, the cemetery's cultural heritage value has been completely erased, and the area has been repurposed.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located at the southern edge of the village. This site was marked in Soviet topographic maps from 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[16] and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[17] as two distinct cemeteries. Using the coordinates from the 1973 map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon image and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. Copy of telegram from General Pirumov in Novo-Bayazet to General Silikov, April 14, 1919, NAA, f. 199, op. 1, d. 48, l. 9.
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9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 212.
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Teleagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
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13. *WorldView-2*, October 05, 2016, via Google Earth.
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15. October 23, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
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17. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 016
Location: Dashkend village (*present-day Ayrk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 016
Location: Dashkend village (*present-day Ayrk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 016
Location: Dashkend village (*present-day Ayrk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

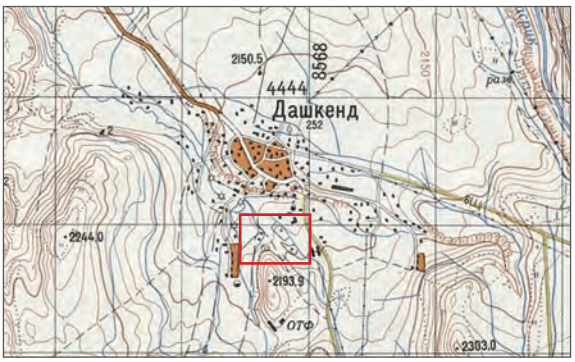
ID: 016
Location: Dashkend village (*present-day Ayrk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 016
Location: Dashkend village (*present-day Ayrk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Used by Armenian military forces
Used by Armenian military forces
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1973

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1973 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

© Bnakavayr, 2024

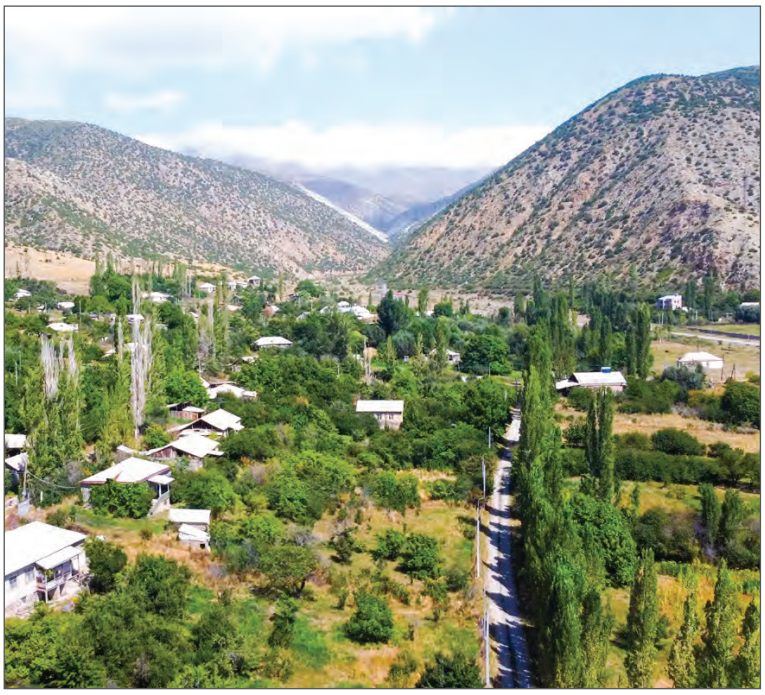
© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Dere Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Dere village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Daranak village (Armenian)
ID: 052 [MC-069], 40.362147, 45.571867



Dere was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on both banks of the Derechay river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was formerly known as *Samad Agha Deresi (Samad Agha's Valley)*.[1]

Dere village was established after Armenian armed groups attacked the Aghzibir, Haji Mukhan, Aghgala, and Ayrivang villages of the Goycha *mahal* on 15 March 1918, perpetrating massacres. Some survivors fled as refugees, with a number of them settling in what became Dere village.[2]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, about 1,000 Azerbaijani residents of Dere village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[3] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Dere village was renamed Daranak.[4]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[5] was conducted to study the site and its surrounding landscape. Through examination of this Hexagon image, the authors identified the cemetery of Dere village. The total area of the cemetery was 0.8 hectares.

To determine any changes following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, a comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 1983 and June 15, 2006[6] (QuickBird-2) was performed. It was determined that by 2006, the western section of the cemetery had been obliterated. The area was levelled, and residential buildings were erected. The fenced area was converted into orchards, and around 20 tombstones in the southern segment had been reoriented. Additionally, clear indications of earthmoving operations, including cleared soil, rubble, and disrupted vegetation, were found in the eastern and northeastern parts of the cemetery. Dirt roads were identified both in the south and extending from north to south across the area.

To examine the subsequent condition of the area, a comparative analysis of QuickBird-2 imagery dated 2006 and GeoEye-1 imagery dated July 17, 2009,[7] showed that, aside from some stone debris in the southern part, the area had been entirely repurposed as orchards. The landscape remained unchanged as of September 21, 2019.[8]

Thus, through analysis, the authors concluded that both the old and the newer cemeteries of Dere village had been obliterated by September 5, 2006. About 20 tombstones persisted into modern times, though they had been vandalized.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located east of Dere village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1952 (1:25,000 scale)[9], 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[10], and 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1952 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F013*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
6. *QuickBird-2*, September 05, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
7. *GeoEye-1*, July 17, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
8. *WorldView-2*, September 21, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128-V-v, 127-G-g (*Pambak*) [map], scale 1:25,000, 1954.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128-V (*Pambak*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128 (*Kedabek*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 052
Location: Dere village (*present-day Daranak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 052
Location: Dere village (*present-day Daranak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 5, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

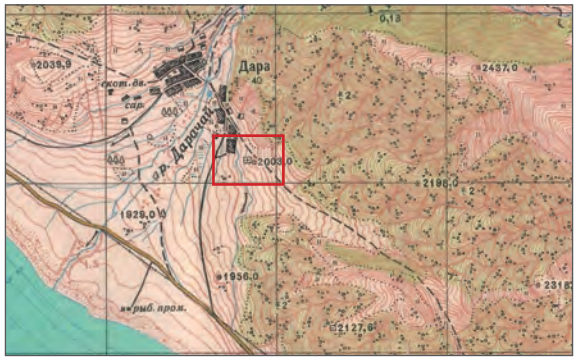
ID: 052
Location: Dere village (present-day Daranak village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 17, 2009 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 052
Location: Dere village (present-day Daranak village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 18, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1954

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1954 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

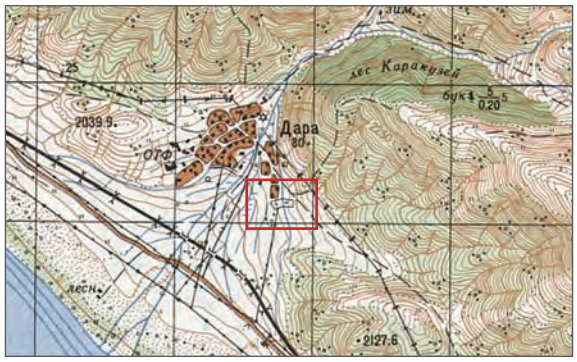


1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Google Earth, 2024

From 2006 to 2019

Status: OBLITERATED

Ganli Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Ganli village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Torfavan village (Armenian)
ID: 048 [MC-425], 40.190528, 45.691678

© Bnakavayr, 2024

Ganli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the Gizilkilsa river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 476 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Ganli (referred to as Ganli Allahverdi in the source, A.A., S.H.) village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as a *disputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, following an Armenian attack, the villagers were forced to flee Ganli, though they returned shortly thereafter. From April 13 to 20, 1919, Ganli again experienced Armenian attacks, compelling residents to abandon the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Ganli village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 165 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated August 12, 1946, Ganli was renamed Gamishli.

In 1953, 507 village residents were deported to Molotov village in the Ujar district of the Azerbaijan SSR,[8] and Armenians were settled in Ganli. After 1956, some deported villagers returned to Ganli and resumed living there. By the 1976 resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, Ganli village was renamed Torfavan.[9]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Ganli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing that it spanned an area of 2.93 hectares, with tombstones primarily in the western and southern sections, while the remaining areas exhibited heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern. According to the image, the cemetery area was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 and August 26, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings revealed that the northern part of the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2006.

A comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2006 and October 5, 2009,[13] (GeoEye-1) revealed that 0.21 hectares of the cemetery had been cleared of tombstones. It is presumed that the stones from demolished tombstones were used for constructing the fence.

A further comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2009 and 2019[14] (WorldView-2) showed the construction of a dirt road running from the northeast to the southwest. Grave slabs were observed in the southwestern part of the cemetery. Bulldoz-

ID: 048
Location: Ganli village (present-day Torfavan village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ers and other heavy machinery were employed in the area, altering its structure and repurposing the site.

Consequently, following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, after 1989, the cemetery suffered severe damage. Especially after 2006, destruction accelerated, and the majority of the tombstones were removed. From 2009 to 2019, technical interventions and excavation activities caused the cemetery's historical and cultural value to be largely eradicated.

The destruction of Ganli village cemetery was a strategic step aimed at multiple objectives. Erasing historical memory, annihilating cultural heritage, imposing psychological pressure, and crushing the hopes of deported Azerbaijanis to return formed the basis of these objectives. As part of an ethnic cleansing policy, this act of erasure targeted not only physical but also spiritual eradication.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the east of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[15] and 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 228.
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11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *QuickBird-2*, August 26.2006, Maxar.
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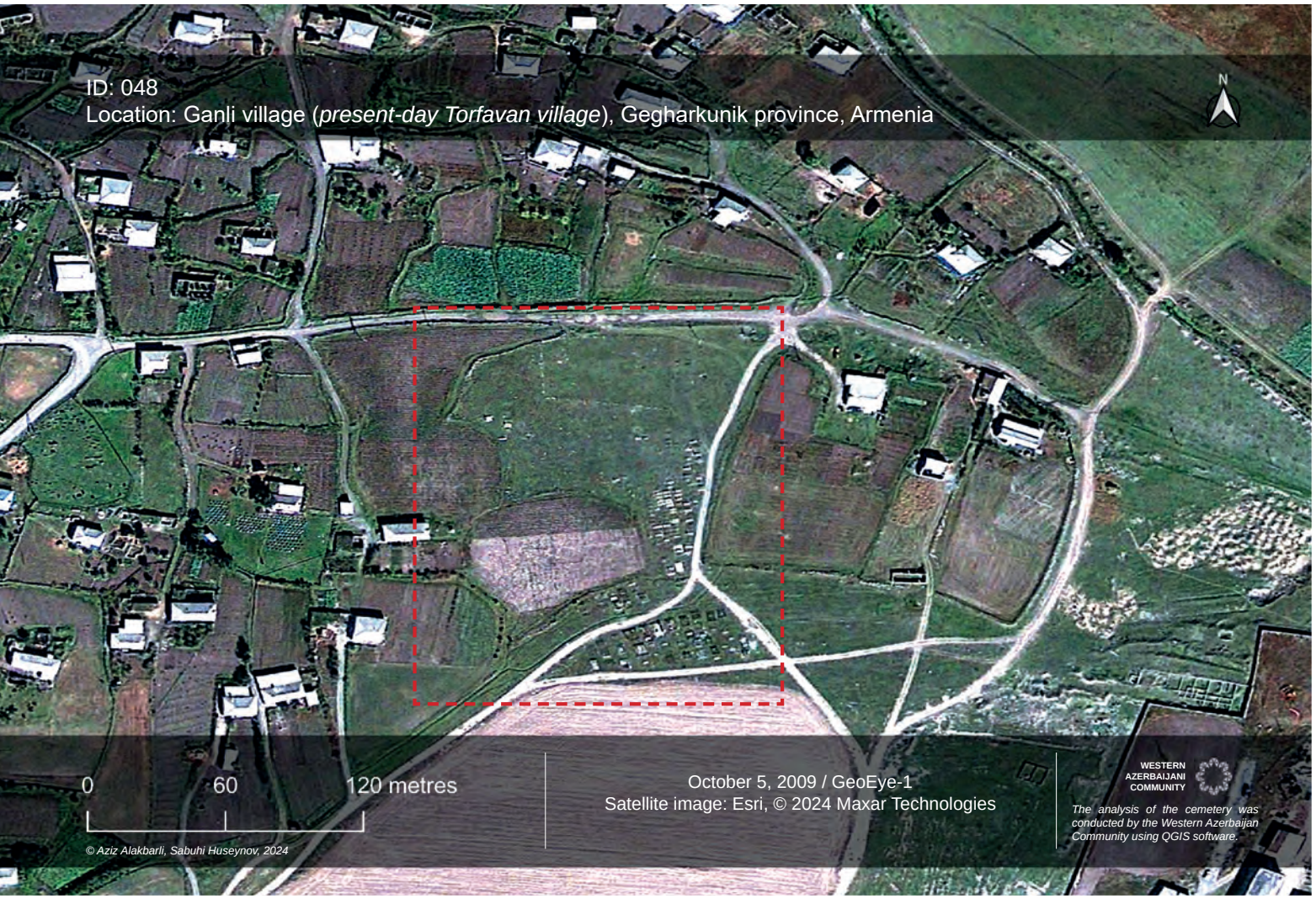
15. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-38 (*Besargechar*) [map], 1:42,000, 1931.
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-A (*Vardenis*) [map], 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 048
Location: Ganli village (*present-day Torfavan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 048
Location: Ganli village (*present-day Torfavan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 048
Location: Ganli village (*present-day Torfavan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Garaiman Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Garaiman village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Kakhakn village (Armenian)
ID: 032 [MC-035], 40.2833931, 45.7821941

Garaiman was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near Aghyokhush village. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the 18th century.[1] The village was originally called Ayrija and later Oghruja. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 443 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Garaiman village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Garaiman within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 478 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.6 In 1953, 273 residents were deported to Garragan village of Mirbashir district (*now Tartar district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR.7 By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Garaiman village was renamed Sovetkend.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of Garaiman village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garaiman village was renamed Ditsmayri.[10] It was later renamed Kakhakn.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 18, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 4.88 hectares on a high hill, with tombstones and mausoleums identified on the site. Based on this historical image, the village's former landscape and the condition of the cemetery were determined.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that by 2006, the cemetery had been destroyed. The cemetery was subjected to vandalism, and a dirt road was built through its center. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and 2010[13] (GeoEye-1) confirmed that the structure in the northeastern section of the cemetery was destroyed, and excavation and earthmoving activities were carried out in the southeast. An analysis of satellite imagery dated 2010 and 2021[14] (CNES/Airbus) indicated no major changes during those years. However, an examination of satellite imagery dated 2021 and 2024[15] showed that both mausoleums in the southeastern area were demolished in that period.

Thus, the results of the comparative analysis of satellite imagery prove that, after the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the cemetery was deliberately destroyed. The demolition of the mausoleums as revealed by the latter imagery, as well as photographs from 2014 highlight the ongoing destruction and the latest threats to cultural heritage (Images Nos.5-8).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated on a high, elongated hill in the center of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1954 (1:25,000 scale)[16], 1976 (1:200,000 scale)[17], 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[18], and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[19]. Using the coordinates from the 1954 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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12. *QuickBird-2*, August 26, 2006, Maxar.
13. *GeoEye-1*, August 05, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
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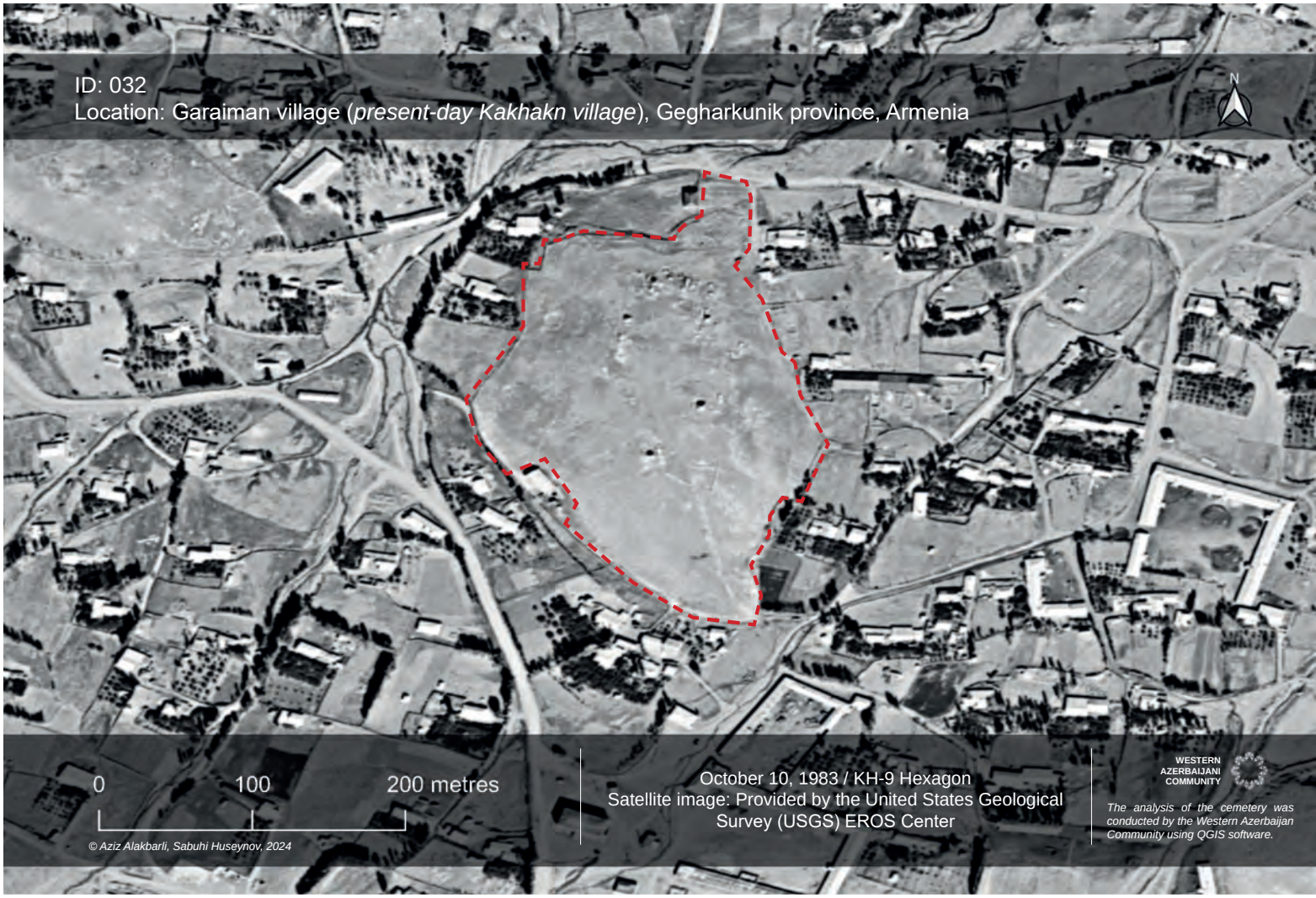

ID: 032
Location: Garaiman village (*present-day Kakhakn village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 032
Location: Garaiman village (*present-day Kakhakn village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 032
Location: Garaiman village (*present-day Kakhakn village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Undamaged mausoleums
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 5, 2010 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

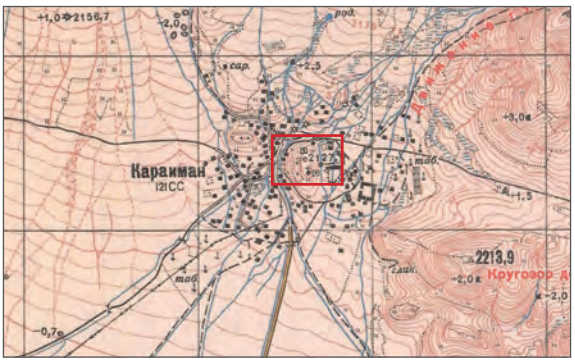
ID: 032
Location: Garaiman village (*present-day Kakhakn village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Undamaged mausoleums
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 17, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 032
Location: Garaiman village (*present-day Kakhakn village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Both mausoleums demolished
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

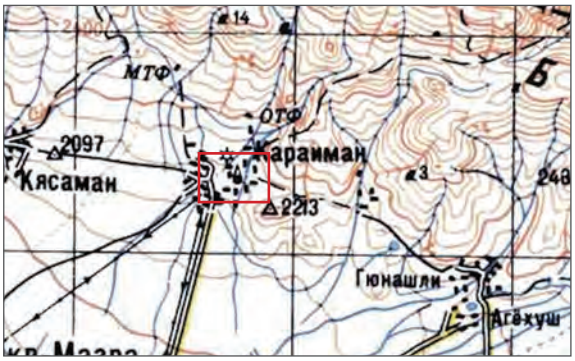
1954

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1954 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



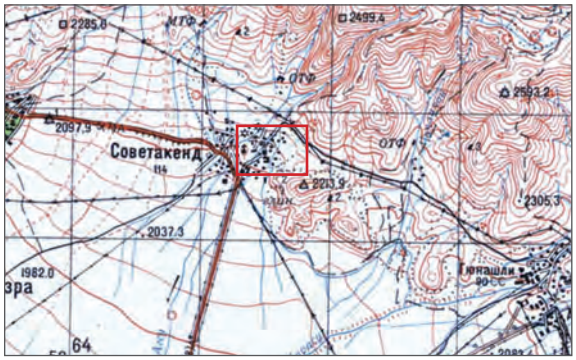
1976

Marked on a *1:200,000 scale* topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY **PRIOR TO 2021**

1

2

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4

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

5

6

7

8

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Gayabashi Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Gayabashi village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Geghamabak village (Armenian)
ID: 040 [MC-079], 40.1706663, 45.8028956

Gayabashi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the Mazra river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village is first mentioned in historical sources in 1873.1 Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). The village had a summer pasture called Zaghayurd on Keyti mountain.[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), Gayabashi village had 240 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gayabashi village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On April 13-20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Gayabashi village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 149 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] By 1926, the number of returnees had increased, with 129 individuals referred to as Turks and 113 as Kurds in the records.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 600 Azerbaijani residents of Gayabashi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gayabashi village was renamed Geghamabak.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones in a 3.5-hectare area on a high hill. Based on this historical image, the village's former landscape and the condition of the cemetery were determined. The cemetery adjacent to Huseynguluaghali village cemetery had tombstones mainly in the eastern and northwestern sections, while its northern section was identified as having heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirm that the cemetery was reduced to ruins. In the northern section of the site, excavation activities were detected in two places, and the fragments of tombstones were observed. The shadows of numerous headstones in the western part of the cemetery were visible, indicating that they remained intact as of 2006. Although satellite imagery dated 2006 (QuickBird-2) and June 30, 2018[12] (CNES/Airbus) show no significant changes in the cemetery during that interval, it was discovered that from June 2018 to August 2019[13], a new phase of major destruction took place in the eastern section of the cemetery. During those dates, two areas of extensive destruction and excavation were identified in the eastern and northeastern portions.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery lies on a high hill in the northern part of the village, southwest of the Huseynguluaghali village cemetery. This site was marked as the same cemetery as the Huseynguluaghali village cemetery on a Soviet topographic map dated 1979 (1:50,000 scale).[14] Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, Juny 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. Juny 30, 2018, CNES via Google Earth.
13. August 06, 2019, CNES via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-140-B (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 040
Location: Gayabashi village (*present-day Geghamabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 040
Location: Gayabashi village (*present-day Geghamabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 040
Location: Gayabashi village (*present-day Geghamabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 040
Location: Gayabashi village (*present-day Geghamabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 6, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 040
Location: Gayabashi village (present-day Geghamabak village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2023

Status: DESTROYED

Gizilbulag Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Gizilbulag village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Khachaghbyur village (Armenian)
ID: 149 [MC-561], 40.162639, 45.691808

Gizilbulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located upstream from Zaghali village on the banks of the Godakbulag river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village is first mentioned in historical sources in 1831.[1] Statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). Another name for this village was Gizilbulag Gahri. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar'*), the village had 1,653 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gizilbulag village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In late 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing local residents to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] In 1919, 85 Armenian refugees arriving from present-day Turkiye were settled here. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Gizilbulag within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 579 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and had to live alongside these Armenian refugees.[6] From the 1920s onward, Gizilbulag was renamed Chakhirli. In 1949, 545 residents were deported to the Yevlakh district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, the village was renamed Sovetakert.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, about 1,500 Azerbaijani residents of Chakhirli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gizilbulag village was renamed Khachaghbyur.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing that it spanned an area of 2.93 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. The area was enclosed by a stone fence. Tombstones were detected in the southern section, while the majority of the area exhibited heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 5, 2009[12] (Geoeye-1) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings indicate that the cemetery did not undergo a major change in this interval. In the 2009 image, the shadows of nearly 40 tombstones were identified. It was also confirmed that the structure depicted in the Hexagon image in the northern section had been demolished.

A comparative analysis of images dated 2009 and September 1, 2024[13] (Airbus) discovered that, within this timeframe, a dirt road was built from north to south—where tombstones were more densely located—and tracks left by heavy trucks were detected. Direct evidence of destruction at the cemetery is confirmed by a video taken in October 2022 (Images Nos. 1-4).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the southwest of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[14], 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[15], and 1979 (1:10,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1973 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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8. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi SSR,* no. 2 (669), 1978 (Yerevan, 1978), 10.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 234.
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. September 01, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, *XXXV-38 (Besargechar)* [map], scale 1:42,000 (1931).
15. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, K-38-140-V *(Akunk)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1973.
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 149
Location: Gizilbulag village (present-day Khachaghbyur village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

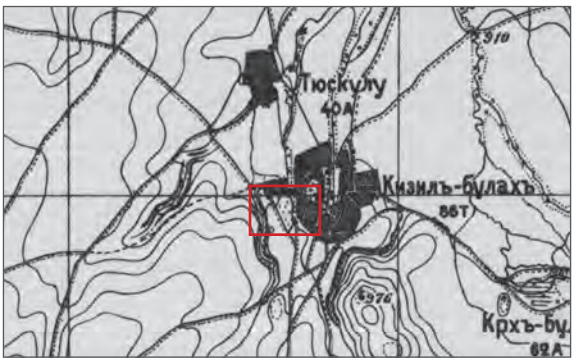
ID: 149
Location: Gizilbulag village (present-day Khachaghbyur village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 149
Location: Gizilbulag village (*present-day Khachaghbyur village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

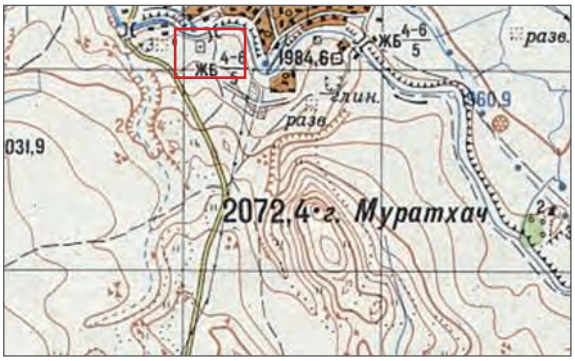
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1973

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1973 by the Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography under the USSR Council of Ministers.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

ACT OF VANDALISM
AT THE CEMETERY (2021):

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From 1989 to 2009

Status: OBLITERATED

Gizilvang Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Gizilvang village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Makenis village (Armenian)
ID: 056 [MC-563], 40.125943, 45.621467

Gizilvang was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, situated on the banks of the Chichakli river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was first mentioned in historical sources in 1842.[1] Statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 812 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gizilvang village, which had previously been part of the Gozaldere village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Republic of Armenia.[3] In late 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing local residents to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] In 1919, 207 Armenian refugees arriving from present-day Turkiye were settled here. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Gizilvang within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921-1926, 282 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and had to live alongside these Armenian refugees.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated July 24, 1940, Gizilvang village was renamed Chichakli.[7]

In 1948, the village population—358 persons—was deported to Novaya Saratovka village in the Gadabay district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] From that date onward, only Armenians remained in the village.

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Chichakli village was renamed Makenis.[9]

With the deportation of Azerbaijanis, its ancient cemetery was left unprotected. The grave of Ashiq Ali, the mentor of Ashiq Alasgar, a renowned Azerbaijani ashiq, was also located in this cemetery.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The satellite imagery available to the authors dates to a period 35 years after the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village. Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. The findings revealed that it spanned an area of 1.14 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Its territory was enclosed by a fence. Within the fenced area, a surface with heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy pattern, typical of old tombstones, was identified, along with a few tombstones in the eastern section and the center.

A comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 1983 and October 5, 2009[11] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) revealed that none of the tombstones could be found in the later imagery. However, the area appears to have remained enclosed by a fence. While the Hexagon satellite image had indicated the prior existence of tombstones, by 2009, they had completely disappeared. During this period, no signs of fresh excavations or destruction were observed. This situation indicates that the cemetery was destroyed a long time ago; however, within the fenced area, old graves with a heterogeneous surface remain visibly distinct.

An analysis of the 2019[12] (CNES/Airbus) and 2023[13] (Airbus) satellite imagery confirms that conditions in the area remained stable, with no changes or new excavations noted.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated on elevated terrain in the east of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet military-topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi SSR,* no. 2 (669), 1978 (Yerevan, 1978), 10.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *GeoEye-1*, October 5, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. September 16, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. October 23, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
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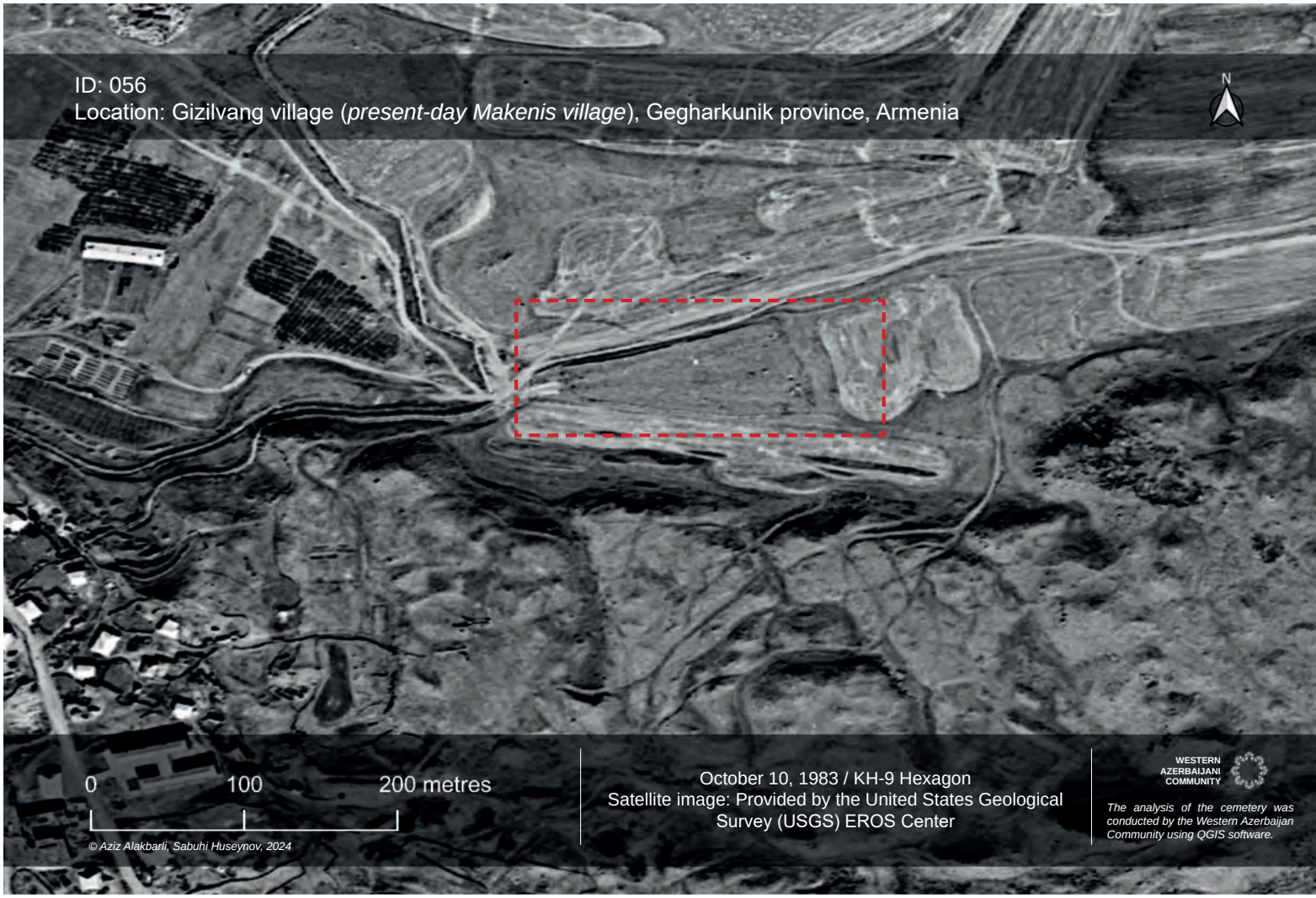
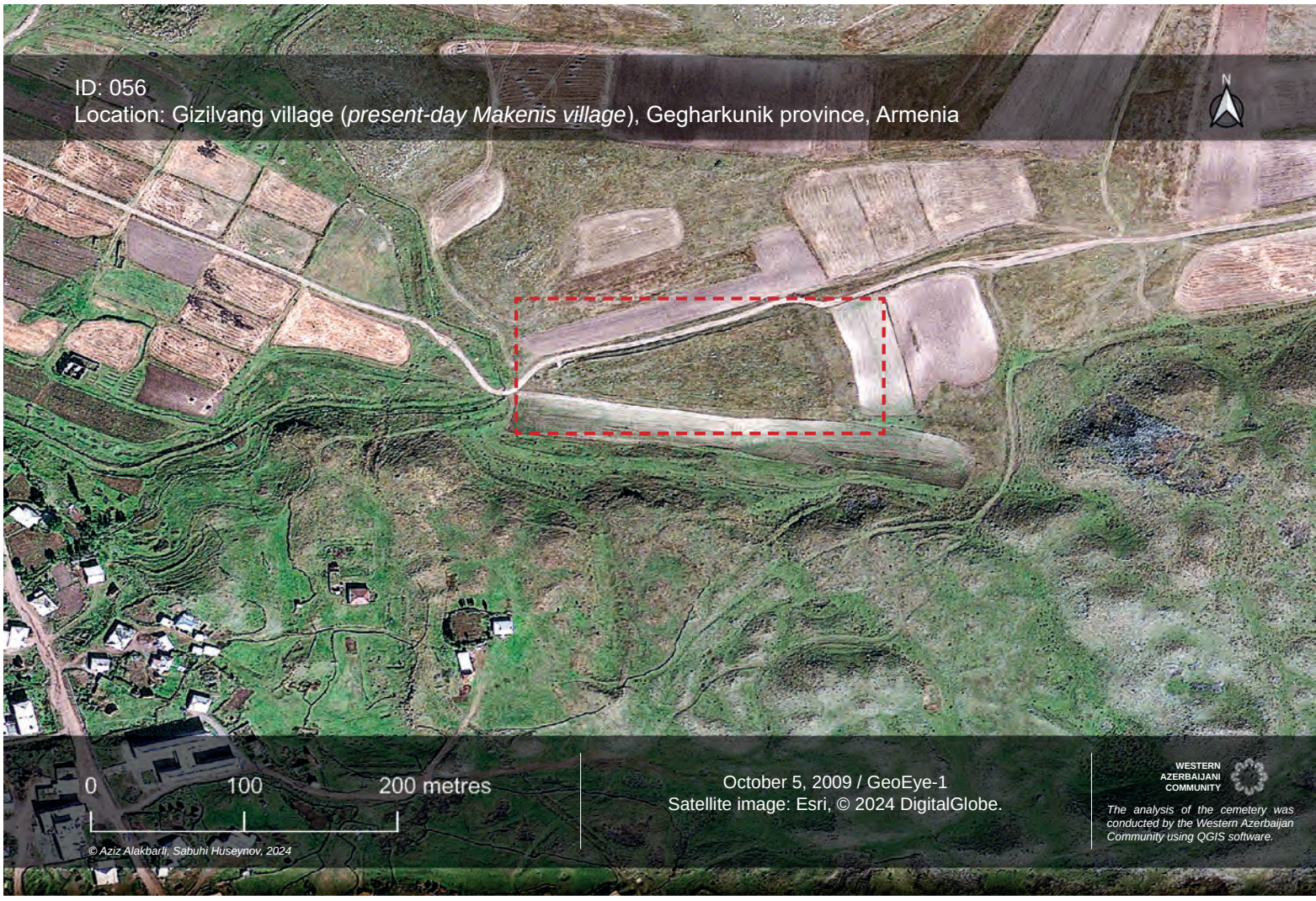

ID: 056
Location: Gizilvang village (*present-day Makenis village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 056
Location: Gizilvang village (*present-day Makenis village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

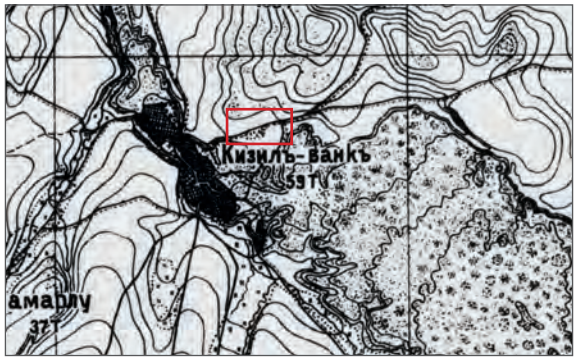
ID: 056
Location: Gizilvang village (*present-day Makenis village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 16, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 056
Location: Gizilvang village (*present-day Makenis village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2009

Status: DESTROYED

Goshabulag Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Goshabulag village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Shatjrek village (Armenian)
ID: 039 [MC-080], 40.156885, 45.7930673

Goshabulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located around Goshabulag spring, near Gayabashi village. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as 1831.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 672 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Goshabulag village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, also became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Republic of Armenia.[3] On April 15, 1919, the village again came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Goshabulag within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 337 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In 1953, 377 residents of the village were deported to Borsunlu village of Mirbashir district (*now Tartar district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7] Part of the village population continued to live in Goshabulag village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 1,800 Azerbaijani residents of Goshabulag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Goshabulag village was renamed Shatjrek.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones over a 1-hectare area. Tombstones were detected in the southern section, while the majority of the area exhibited heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern. The area was found to be in good condition and entirely enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 5, 2009[11] (Geoeye-1) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings indicate that the cemetery area suffered destruction. As a result of the destruction, the tombstones in the eastern part of the cemetery (covering an area of 1,000 square meters) and in the southern section had completely disappeared. Additionally, it was determined that the fence identified in the Hexagon image no longer existed.

Further comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 (Geoeye-1) and 2024[12] (Airbus)indicates no significant changes to the cemetery during that period.

Analyses suggest that future threats primarily stem from the expansion of farmland to the north and the use of the area as pastureland, both of which place the site at risk of further destruction.

Satellite and photographic images confirm that some headstones remain standing within the cemetery. However, photographs clearly show that most of these headstones are broken (Images Nos. 1-4).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on elevated terrain, in the southern part of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1973 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 141.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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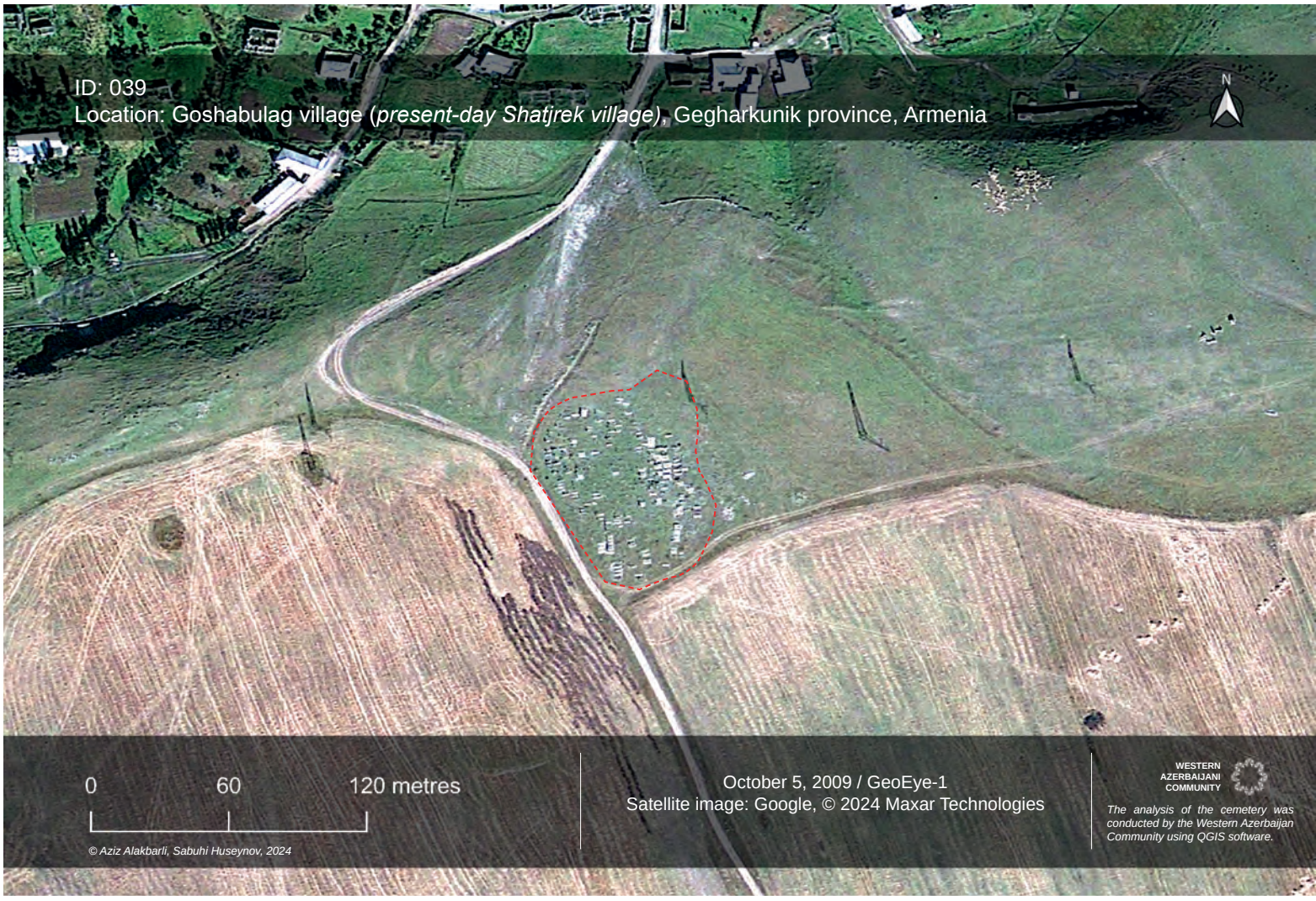
7. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 681.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 215.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *GeoEye-1*, 10504100020E8D00, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. August 19, 2024, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, *K-38-140-G (Dashkend)* [map], scale 1:50,000 (1973).

ID: 039
Location: Goshabulag village (*present-day Shatjrek village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

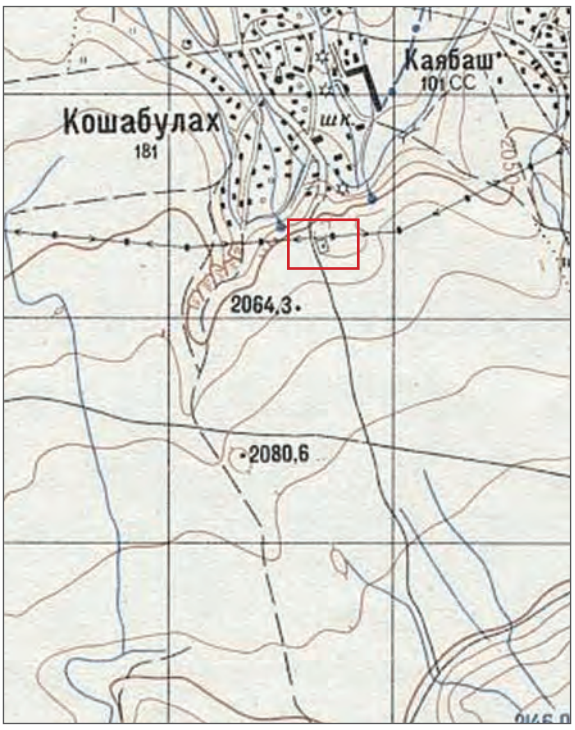

ID: 039
Location: Goshabulag village (*present-day Shatjrek village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 039
Location: Goshabulag village (*present-day Shatjrek village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1973

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1973 by the Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography under the USSR Council of Ministers.

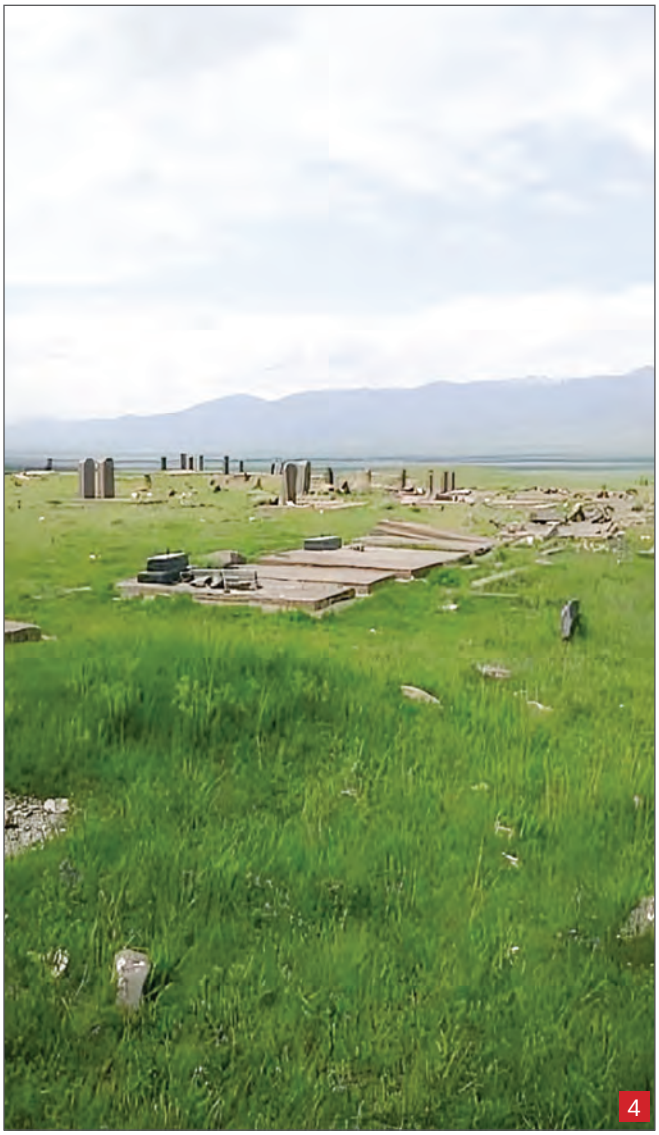


CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3


4

Photos were submitted by the Western Azerbaijan Community

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Goysu Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Goysu village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Avazan village (Armenian)
ID: 055 [MC-072], 40.3057493, 45.7032112

Goysu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, 1.5 km east of Shishgaya village. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village appears in statistical records from the late 19th century.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] From April 13 to 20, 1919, Goysu village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Goysu within its new administrative boundaries.[4] Between 1922 and 1924, some of the displaced population returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resumed their lives.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Goysu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Goysu village was renamed Avazan.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.7 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. At that time, the cemetery was bordered to the north and south by irrigation channels drawn from local springs, to the east by a ravine, and to the west by residential yards. It was in good condition, with graves neatly arranged, and the site was protected.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis confirmed that the entire area of the cemetery, with the exception of the tombstone identified in the northern part, had been obliterated by 2006. The southern part of the land was cleared and leveled, then added to a residential yard—an indication that the cemetery's destruction served repurposing.

An examination of tombstones in the cemetery's northern section was carried out using satellite imagery dated August 26, 2006 (QuickBird-2), August 5, 2010[10] (GeoEye-1), and from 2024[11] (Airbus). Comparison of the 2006 and 2010 images confirmed ongoing destruction. However, comparison of the 2010 and 2024 images showed that the cemetery's structure remained stable thereafter. Shadow analysis suggests that 17 tombstones are standing; however, in the absence of more recent photographic evidence, it is impossible to draw firm conclusions about further damage or vandalism targeting these tombstones.

Overall, the authors' analysis of 3 satellite images across multiple time periods shows that the cemetery had been destroyed by 2006. Its structure had been severely damaged, many tombstones had been removed, and part of the site was leveled and integrated into a residential yard. 17 grave slabs have survived to the present day, though they have been reoriented from their original positions.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the northwestern part of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1979 (1:50,000[12] and 1:100,000 scales[13]). Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 110-111.
6. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi väsakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 126.
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9. *QuickBird-2*, August 26, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. *GeoEye-1*, August 05, 2010, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. *August 01*, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-A (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 055
Location: Goysu village (present-day Avazan village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 055
Location: Goysu village (present-day Avazan village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

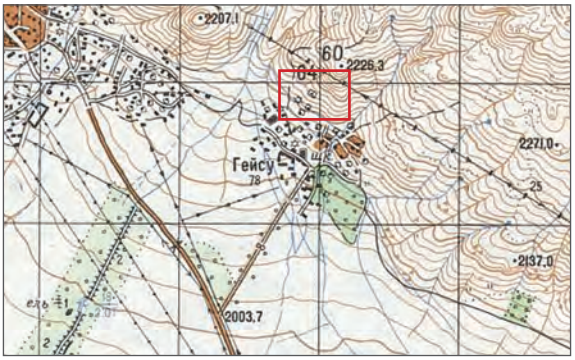
ID: 055
Location: Goysu village (*present-day Avazan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 5, 2010 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 055
Location: Goysu village (*present-day Avazan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

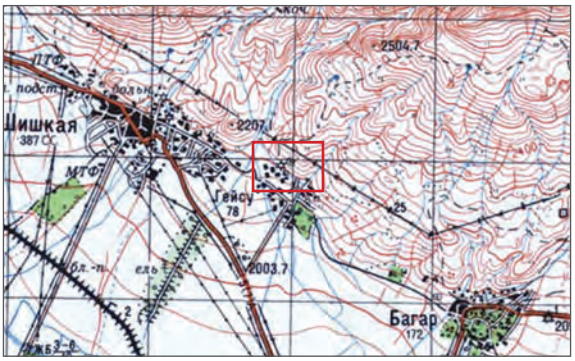
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Huseynguluaghali Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Huseynguluaghali village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Shatvan village (Armenian)
ID: 141 [MC-526], 40.171080, 45.803530

Huseynguluaghali was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the Mazra river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was also known as Aghkilsa. Historical sources mention the village from the late 19th century.[1] Subsequent statistical compilations prove that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). The village had summer pastures called Tandir torpaq and Lilparri on Chalmali Mountain.[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), Huseynguluaghali village had 1,207 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Huseynguluaghali village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On April 15, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee, while the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Huseynguluaghali village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 527 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resumed their lives.[7] In 1924, the village was renamed Narimanli. In 1953, 152 residents of the village were deported to the Sharafli village of Barda district in the Azerbaijan SSR.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 760 Azerbaijani residents of Huseynguluaghali village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Huseynguluaghali village was renamed Shatvan.[10]

There were four mausoleums in the cemetery. Among them (previously targeted by Armenian artillery in 1918), Haji Alimerdan's mausoleum remained partially standing until 1988. The other three, built during the Soviet era, commemorated local inhabitants.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and several mausoleums over a 1.3-hectare area east of Gayabashi village.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings confirm that by 2006, the tombstones and mausoleums had been completely destroyed. A newly discovered dirt road, 240 meters in length, extends from east to west. North of the road, excavator-created earthen ridges extending in an east-west direction were identified. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and October 5, 2009[13] (GeoEye-1) revealed no significant changes. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 and October 5, 2016[14] (WorldView-2) revealed that by 2016, about 1,200 square meters in the southern part of the cemetery had been subject to earthmoving in connection with road repairs.

All of this evidence confirms that the village cemetery had been partially destroyed by 2006 and that this process continued, with earthmoving persisting until at least 2016.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is adjacent to that of Gayabashi village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 112-113.
8. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 681.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 236.
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983. Source:USGS EROS.
12. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. *WorldView-2*, October 05, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-*B* (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 141
Location: Huseynguluaghali village (*present-day Shatvan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 141
Location: Huseynguluaghali village (*present-day Shatvan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 141
Location: Huseynguluaghali village (*present-day Shatvan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 141
Location: Huseynguluaghali village (*present-day Shatvan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 141
Location: Huseynguluaghali village (*present-day Shatvan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Inakdagh Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Inakdagh village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Tretuk village (Armenian)
ID: 034 [MC-029], 40.2322828, 45.8537991

Inakdagh was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located at the foot of the Inakdagh mountain. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 19th century.[1] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 674 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Inakdagh village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Inakdagh within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 297 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Inakdagh was renamed Yenikand.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 1,800 Azerbaijani residents of Inakdagh village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Inakdagh village was renamed Tretuk.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing an old and a new cemetery on the slope beside the road. The cemeteries are separated by a deep ravine. The new cemetery was identified over an area of 1.2 hectares with tombstones, while the old cemetery, located to its east, measured 1.2 hectares, exhibiting heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern. The cemetery extended southward up to the ravine. In the newer cemetery, most tombstones were located near the center, while in the older cemetery, two mausoleums were identified.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings confirm that by 2006, earthmoving had been carried out in the southwestern and southern sections of the new cemetery, and the mausoleums in the old cemetery had been destroyed.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and 2021[12] (WorldView-2) revealed that trenches had been excavated in the southwestern, southern, and southeastern parts of the old cemetery to hide military equipment. Although more than 40 tombstones were identified in the new cemetery, no shadows of headstones were detected. Many grave slabs were found to have been reoriented.

In the 2024[13] Airbus satellite imagery, it was identified that four additional trenches had been dug—30 meters north and in the southwest near the road from the area of the new cemetery—for concealing tanks or other military equipment.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located south of Inakdagh village, on a slope to the left of the road leading to Zod village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1979 at two different scales: 1:50,000 scale[14] and 1:100,000 scale[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. WorldView-2, October 17? 2021, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. July 11, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-*B* (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 034
Location: Inakdagh village (*present-day Tretuk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 034
Location: Inakdagh village (*present-day Tretuk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

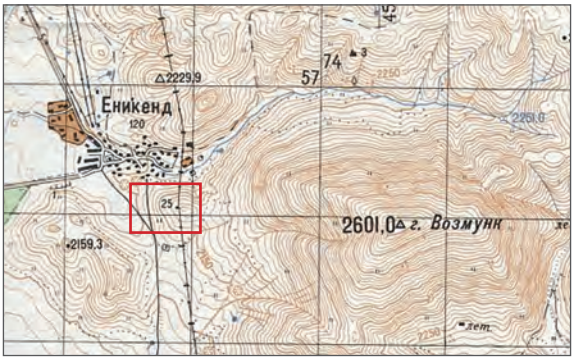
ID: 034
Location: Inakdagh village (*present-day Tretuk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 17, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 034
Location: Inakdagh village (*present-day Tretuk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 11, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Karkibash Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Karkibash village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Vanevan village (Armenian)
ID: 041 [MC-424], 40.1922768, 45.6794680

Karkibash was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near Lake Goycha. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 377 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Karkibash village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as a *disputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In July 1918, Karkibash came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Karkibash within its new administrative boundaries.5 In 1921, 166 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated June 25, 1967, Karkibash was renamed Shafag.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Karkibash village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Karkibash village was renamed Vanevan.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones in a 2-hectare area on a high hill. The cemetery appeared densely populated with tombstones. Based on this historical image, the village's former landscape and the condition of the cemetery were determined.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that by 2006, the cemetery had been completely destroyed. On the satellite image, stones in the western part of the cemetery were found gathered in a single area due to this destruction. In the southern section, shadows cast by six headstones were identified, while earthmoving activities were detected in the northwest. Although the satellite image suggests circumstances that might indicate an act of vandalism, it was not possible to determine its full extent. Video footage from 2015 confirms that vandalism occurred in the area (Images Nos. 1-2). By that date, only three grave monuments remained with intact headstones. The names and images of the deceased depicted on these headstones had been scraped off, and parts thereof had been broken.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 (QuickBird-2) and September 21, 2019[12] (WorldView-2) revealed that by 2019, excavations had occurred in the northwest part of the cemetery, new dirt roads had been constructed, and the residential yard had expanded westward in the southeast section.

Thus, the observed changes and destruction at the cemetery site between 1989 and 2019 indicate a systematic eradication of cultural heritage and the deliberate nature of the vandalism.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated on a high hill in the north of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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ID: 041
Location: Karkibash village (*present-day Vanevan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 041
Location: Karkibash village (*present-day Vanevan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 041
Location: Karkibash village (*present-day Vanevan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 041
Location: Karkibash village (*present-day Vanevan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 1998 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Kasaman Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Kasaman village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Arpunk village (Armenian)
ID: 196 [MC-073], 40.290257, 45.730344 / 40.289722, 45.728944

Kasaman was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on both banks of Kasaman river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village is first mentioned in historical sources in 1831.[1] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 966 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Kasaman village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Kasaman within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 249 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Kasaman village was renamed Bahar.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Kasaman village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Kasaman village was renamed Arpunk.[9] Currently, the village is only inhabited by Armenians.

The Zal Baba mausoleum, Nadir Baba mausoleum, and the mausoleum of Telman Isgandar oghlu once existed within the village cemetery.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. The findings revealed that the cemetery covered 0.4 hectares, with an additional 0.2-hectare section to its right. Furthermore, three mausoleums were documented in the first cemetery.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. Both cemeteries had been heavily subjected to vandalism and destruction by 2006, leading to their complete obliteration. All three mausoleums identified in the 1983 Hexagon image were destroyed, and the tombstones were extensively demolished. In the satellite image, 91–100% of the cemetery area showed grave slabs with altered orientations, scattered debris, and a prevalence of high-reflectance materials, confirming the severity of the destruction.

To narrow the timeframe and pinpoint approximate dates of this obliteration, the authors tracked vegetation changes in the area from 1989 to 2006, using Landsat 5 satellite imagery. Although NDVI values between 1989 and 1996 remained around 0.5–0.6, starting from 1998, they decreased sharply to 0.1–0.2. This decrease is linked to destruction in the area, which exposed the soil surface and lowered vegetation indices. The analysis indicates that complete demolition of the cemetery occurred between 1998 and 2000. This is also confirmed by subsequent imagery.[13,14]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated west of the village, on an elevated area to the north of the road leading to Goysu village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1979 at two different scales: 1:50,000 scale[15] and 1:100,000 scale[16]. On a 1:50,000-scale map from 1979, the site was marked as two distinct cemeteries. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified both cemeteries on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined their precise coordinates.

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12. *QuickBird-2*, August 26, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *GeoEye-1*, August 01, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. September 01, 2024, Abibus via Google Earth.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-A (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 196
Location: Kasaman village (*present-day Arpunk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia

N

Mausoleums clearly visible

0 80 160 metres

© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center

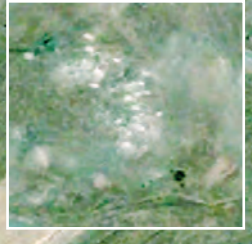
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 196
Location: Kasaman village (*present-day Arpunk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia

N

Mausoleums destroyed



0 80 160 metres

© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 196
Location: Kasaman village (*present-day Arpunk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 5, 2011 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 196
Location: Kasaman village (*present-day Arpunk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

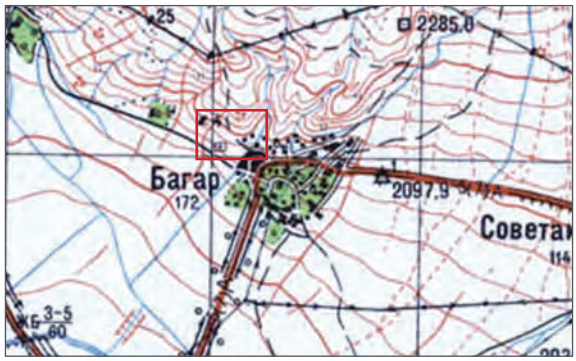
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

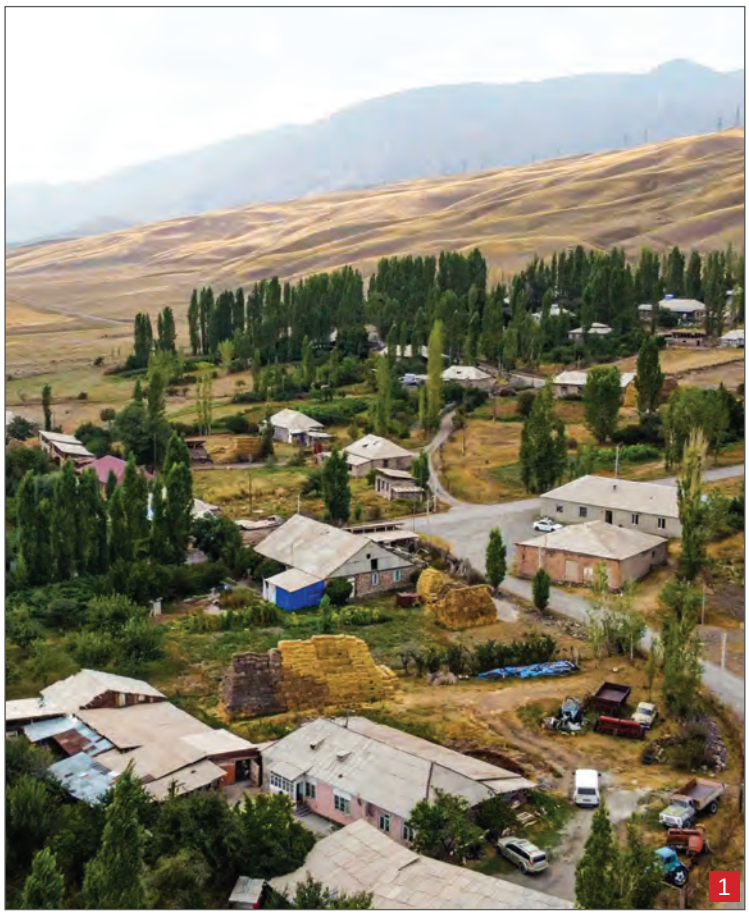
Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:


1

2

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Pambak Village New Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Pambak village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Pambak village (Armenian)
ID: 050 [MC-068], 40.3773661, 45.5354623

Pambak was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, along both banks of the Pambak river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was originally known as Gushchu deresi. Historical sources mentioned Pambak village as early as 1873.[1] The village had a winter settlement in an area known as Yarikhli Dere.[2] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 392 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Pambak village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Pambak within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 390 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of Pambak village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, identifying it as an area of 0.6 hectares, primarily exhibiting heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 5, 2006[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings indicate that the cemetery area underwent significant changes by 2006. Specifically, a new Armenian cemetery, which was not present in the 1971 Hexagon satellite image, had been established in the eastern part of this area. Additionally, an anchor tower for an electricity transmission line was installed in the center of the Azerbaijani cemetery. Moreover, automobile tracks cutting through the cemetery and leading toward the Armenian cemetery were observed. Tombstones throughout the cemetery were destroyed, indicating a deliberate act of vandalism. The construction of this road through the tombstones and the installation of an anchor tower for an electricity transmission line in the center of the cemetery serve as evidence of its destruction. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006, July 17, 2009[11] (GeoEye-1), and October 14, 2023[12] (Airbus) indicates that conditions remained stable during this period. The 2023 imagery suggests that, despite the widespread destruction, the shadows of approximately 30 tombstones are still discernible across the cemetery. The analysis of the 2009 and 2023 imagery shows that the cemetery, including the remaining 30 tombstones, is at significant risk of total destruction due to the expansion of agricultural fields to the south. The authors believe that further expansion of these fields northward would cause severe damage to the cemetery.

GEOLOCATION:

The Pambak cemetery is situated on the eastern side of the village, on the right side of the dirt road leading to Dere village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[13] and 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. Molla Älishräf Haji Molla Rähimzadäh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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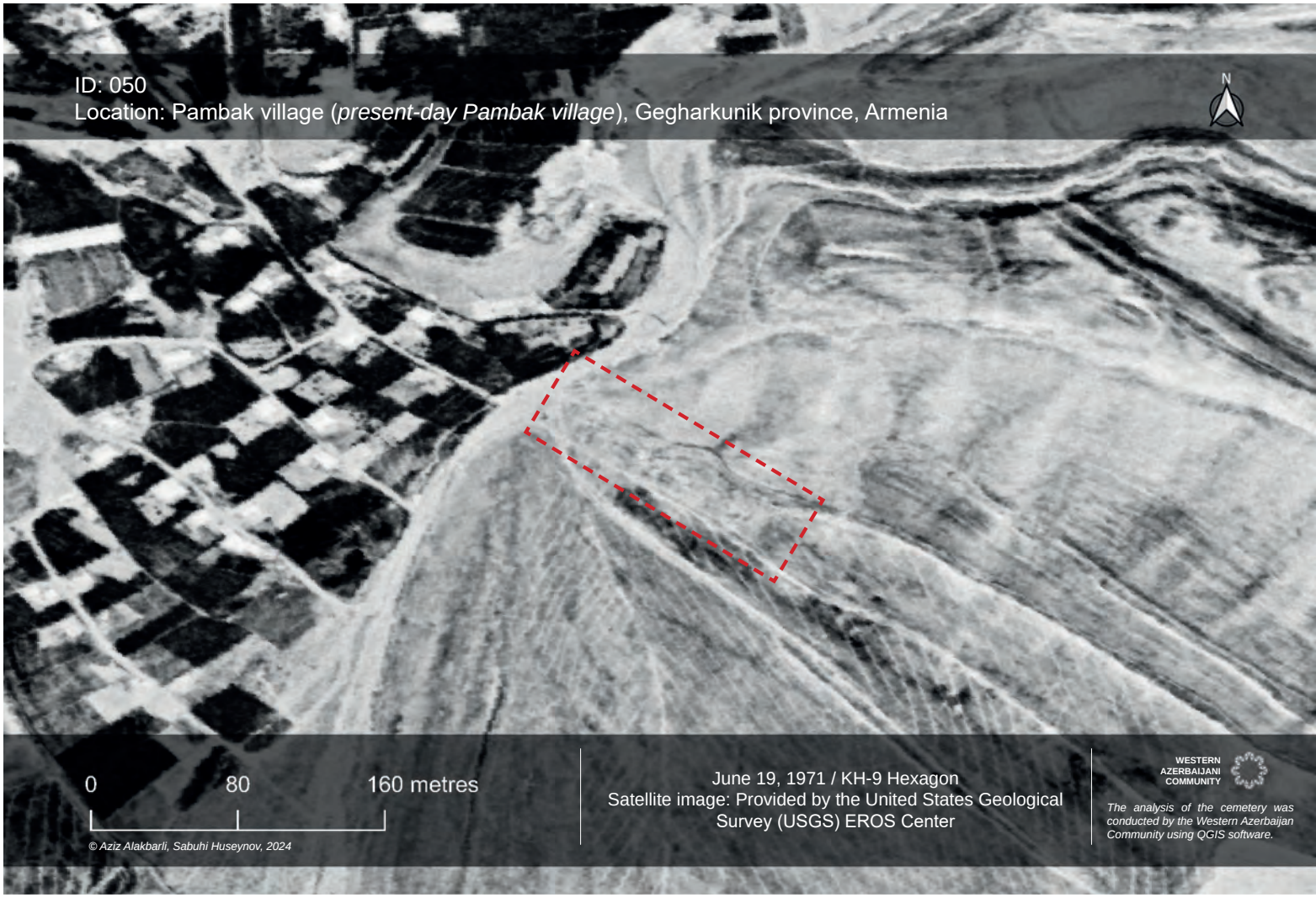
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 220.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A019*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, September 05, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *GeoEye-1*, July 17, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. October 14, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128-V (*Pambak*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128 (*Kedabek*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 050
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 050
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 5, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 050
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
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160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 17, 2009 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 050
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 14, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

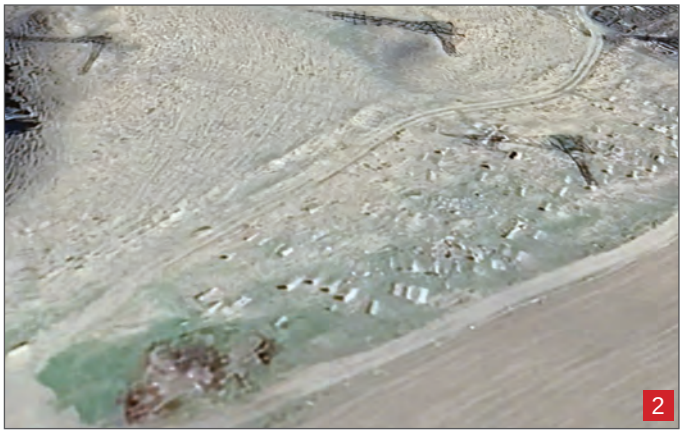
1976

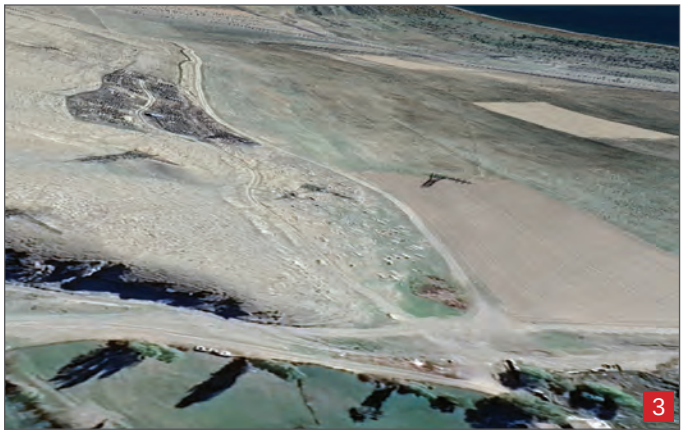
Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:





© Google Earth, 2024

From 1989 to 2009

Status: OBLITERATED

Pambak Village Old Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Pambak village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Pambak village (Armenian)
ID: 051 [MC-418], 40.381339, 45.532606

Pambak was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, along both banks of Pambak river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was originally known as Gushchu deresi. Historical sources mentioned Pambak village as early as 1873.[1] The village had a winter settlement in an area known as Yarikhli Dere.[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 392 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Pambak village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Pambak within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 390 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of Pambak village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[9] (at right, top), examined the landscape features of the cemetery located in the center of the village, identifying it as a 0.4-hectare fenced area with a surface exhibiting heterogeneous characteristics and a patchy pattern, typical of old tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 5, 2006[10] (Quickbird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis found that, by 2006, the site was cleared of old graves and leveled, and the removed tombstones were repurposed to build stone fences around the area. A GeoEye-1 satellite image dated July 17, 2009[11] reveals that the site was used as a cultivated field.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated August 5, 2010,[12] and October 14, 2023,[13] confirmed that the site remained in agricultural use. The authors believe that during this period, the cemetery site was likely used for hay harvesting.

GEOLOCATION:

Pambak village's old cemetery is located in the village center. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1929 (1:42,000 scale),[14] 1954 (1:25,000 scale),[15] 1976 (1:100,000 scale),[16] and 1979 (1:50,000 scale).[17] Using the coordinates from the 1954 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on

the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 149.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), p.50.
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6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh*, Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlıların 1988-ci il soyqırımı (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 220.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A019*, June 19, 1971. USGS EROS.
10. *QuickBird-2*, September 05, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *GeoEye-1*, July 17, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. August 05, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
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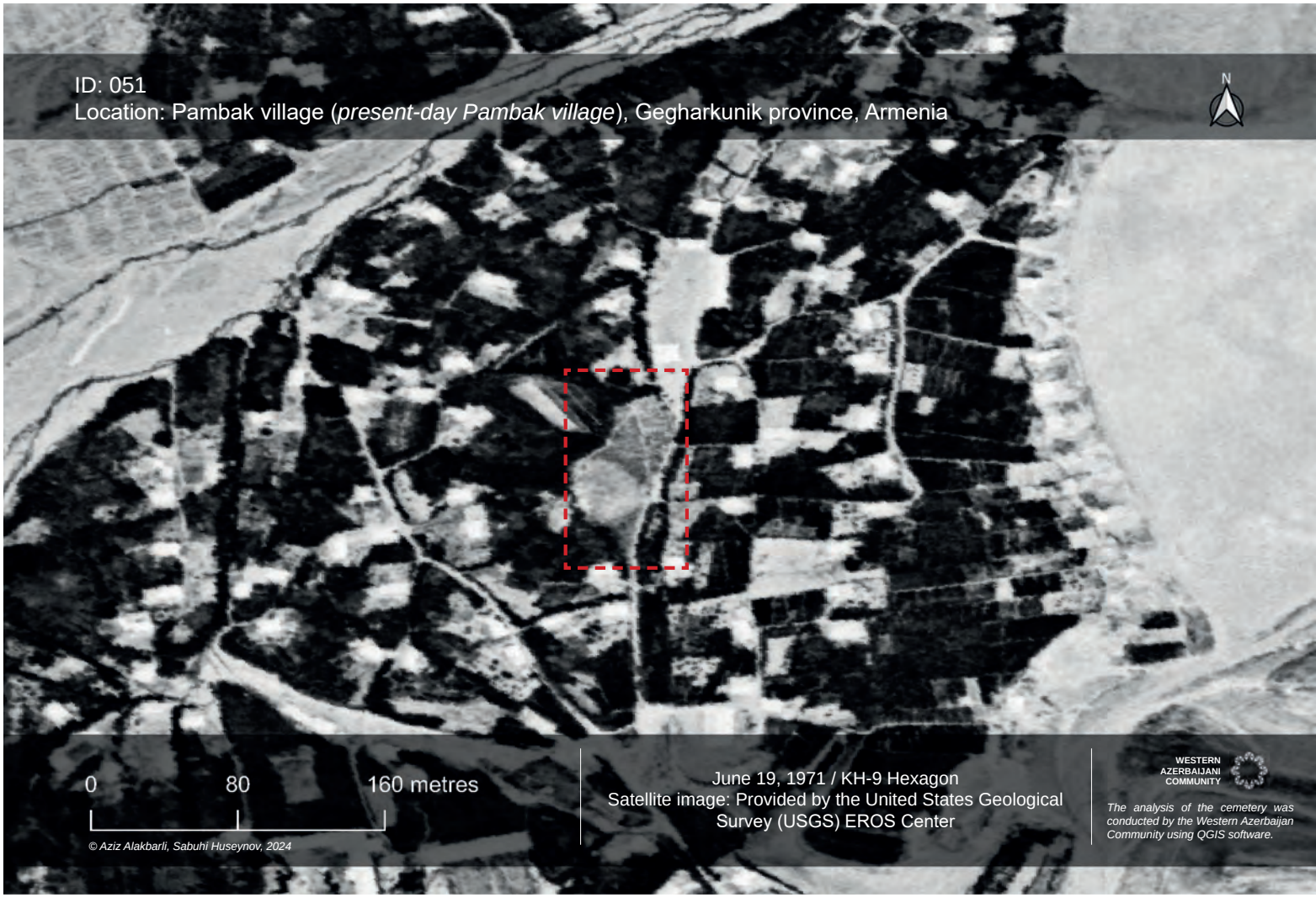
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128-V (*Pambak*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-128 (*Kedabek*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 051
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 051
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 5, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologie
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 051
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 17, 2009 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 051
Location: Pambak village (*present-day Pambak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
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160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 5, 2010
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

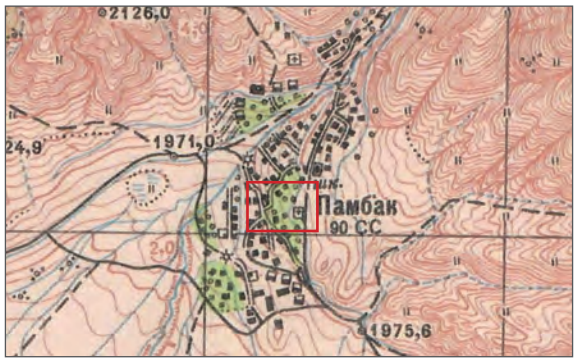
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1929

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1929 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1954

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1954 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

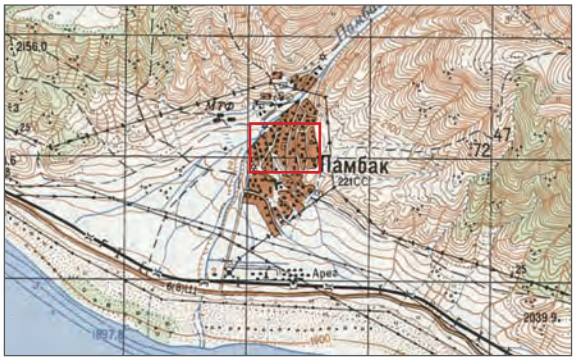


1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Sariyagub Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Sariyagub village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Jaghatsadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 038 [MC-076], 40.1509356, 45.8270480

Sariyagub was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the Mazra river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as Zargarli as early as the first half of the 16th century.[1] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" and "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). The village had a summer pasture called Kerali Yurdu on Keyti mountain.[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 675 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Sariyagub village, which had previously been part of the Gozaldere village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Republic of Armenia.[4] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Sariyagub within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 343 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 1,700 Azerbaijani residents of Sariyagub village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Sariyagub village was renamed Jaghatsadzor.[9]

Sariyagub residents used this cemetery until 1988, and it contained two mausoleums, one dedicated to Barkhudar Ahmad oghlu and Abbasali Ahmadli, and another to Hummat Mahmudov.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and two mausoleums over a 1-hectare area. At that time, the area was in good condition, with burial sites clearly visible mainly in the northern section, while other parts were identified as exhibiting a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern characteristic of old tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis found that, by 2006, significant alterations had taken place in the cemetery area. The mausoleums had been reduced to their foundations, while many headstones and grave slabs were shattered and strewn across the site. This condition of the cemetery is more clearly visible on the GeoEye-1 satellite imagery dated October 15, 2009.[13] A comparison with the satellite imagery dated June 30, 2018,[14] shows no major changes during that period. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated June 30, 2018, and October 23, 2021,[15] revealed that further excavation had begun 10 meters west of the cemetery. The analysis revealed land levelling and excavation activities, along with the construction of trenches and defensive structures. The latest satellite imagery from 2024[16] (Airbus) confirms the ongoing destruction of the site.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery lies 500 meters east of Sariyagub village, on the left side of the road leading to Boyuk Garagoyunlu village. This site was marked on a Soviet military-topographic map published in 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[17]. Using the coordinates from the 1973 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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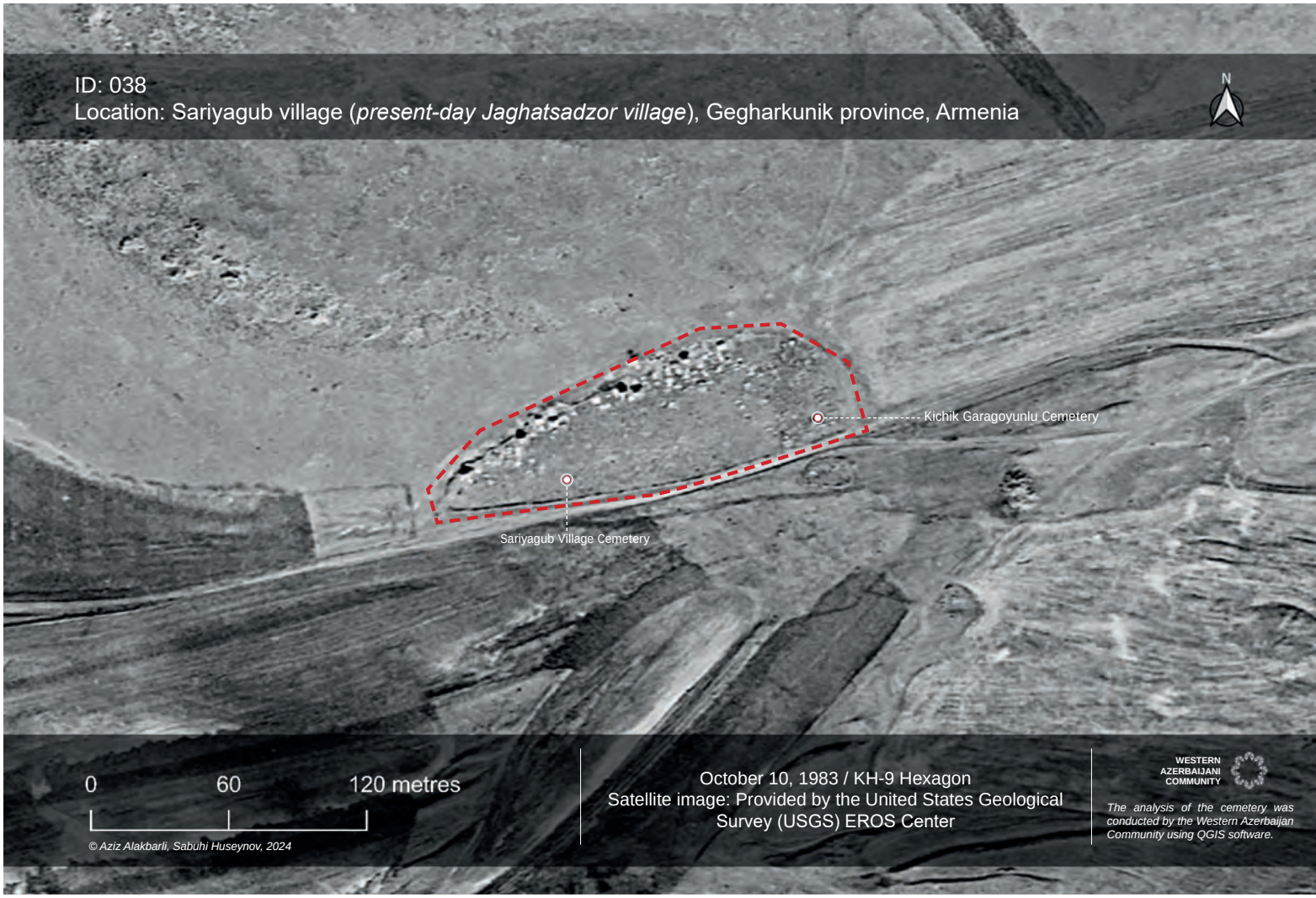
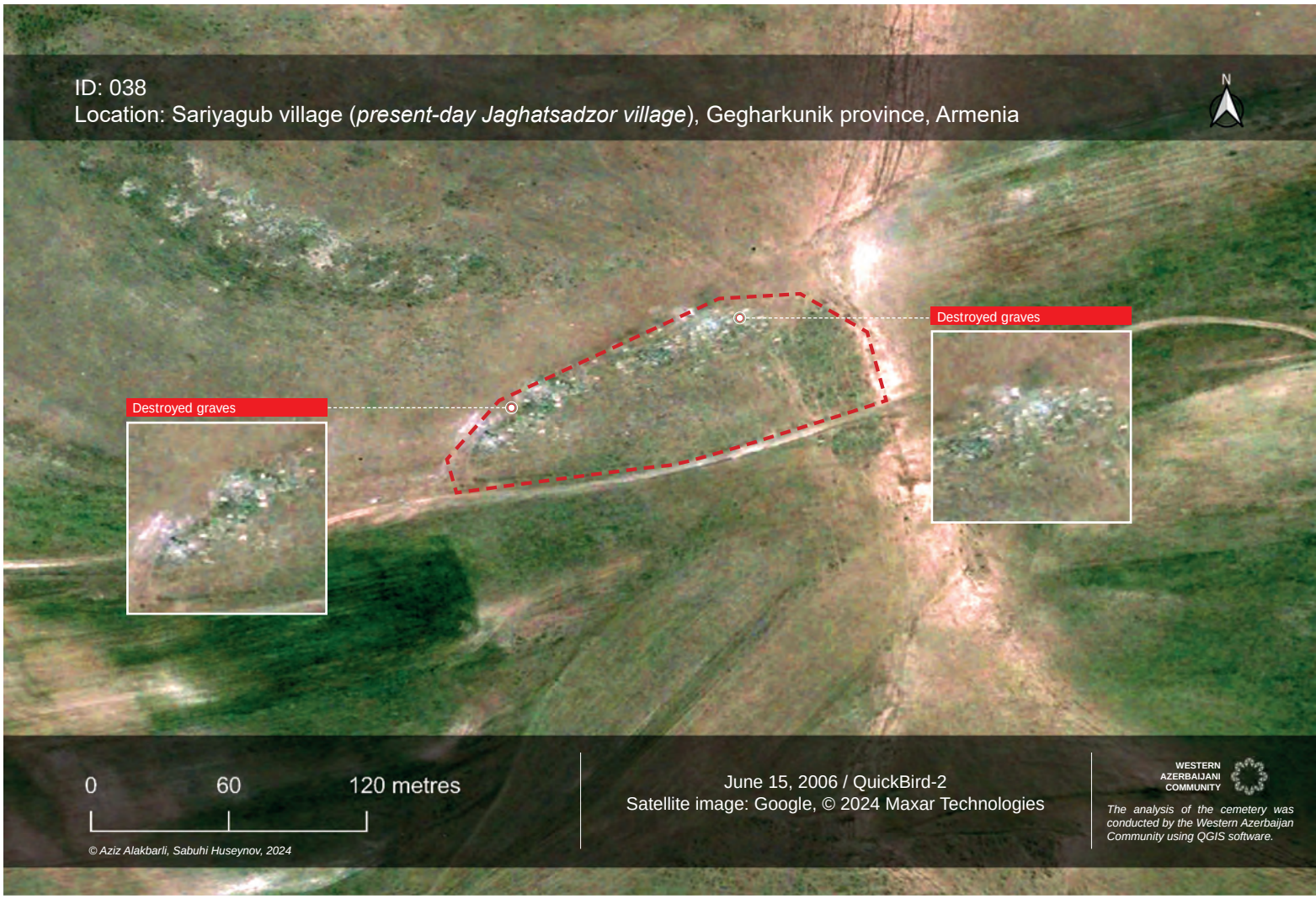
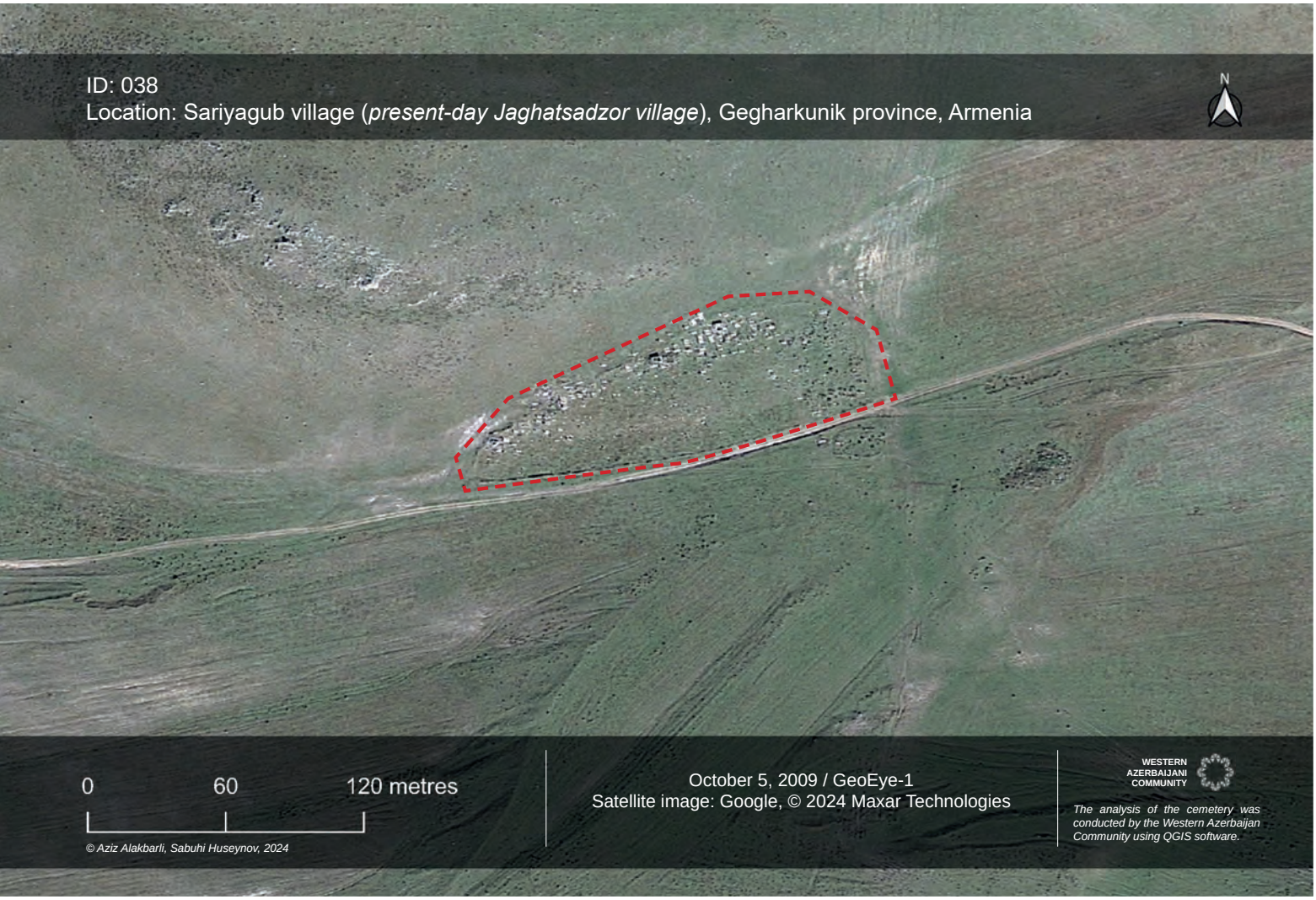
12. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. June 30, 2018, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
15. October 23, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
16. August 19, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
17. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, K-38-140-G (*Dashkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1973.


ID: 038
Location: Sariyagub village (*present-day Jaghatsadzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Kichik Garagoyunlu Cemetery
Sariyagub Village Cemetery
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 038
Location: Sariyagub village (*present-day Jaghatsadzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Destroyed graves
Destroyed graves
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 038
Location: Sariyagub village (*present-day Jaghatsadzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 038
Location: Sariyagub village (*present-day Jaghatsadzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 038
Location: Sariyagub village (*present-day Jaghatsadzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia

N

Used by Armenian military forces

0 60 120 metres

© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

October 23, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 038
Location: Sariyagub village (*present-day Jaghatsadzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia

N

Used by Armenian military forces

Livestock grazing

Used by Armenian military forces

0 60 120 metres

© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

August 19, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2019

Status: OBLITERATED

Satanaghaj Village New Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Satanaghaj village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Areguni village (Armenian)
ID: 053 [MC-070], 40.3442444, 45.5886439

Satanaghaj was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near the eastern shore of Lake Goycha. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was also known as Haji Garib. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 659 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Satanaghaj village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Satanaghaj within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 300 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Satanaghaj was renamed Guney.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Satanaghaj village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Guney village was renamed Areguni.[8]

Within the village cemetery were the mausoleums of Mashadi Mustafa Alasgar oghlu and Seyran Binnat gizi.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and two mausoleums over a 2-hectare area. The area was in good condition, with burial sites clearly visible mainly in the central and eastern sections, while other parts exhibited a heterogeneous surface pattern characteristic of old tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 5, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings showed that, by 2006, more than 0.8 hectares of the cemetery, including both mausoleums, had been completely destroyed. Over the remaining 1.2 hectares of land, the tombstones have suffered severe destruction. GeoEye-1 satellite imagery dated August 5, 2010[12] indicated that the condition of the cemetery had remained unchanged up to that date. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated August 5, 2010, and August 21, 2019,[13] (WorldView-2) revealed that excavation and leveling work had been carried out in the northern section of the cemetery for road construction. A 0.2-hectare section of the cemetery was repurposed for the newly built road, and the imagery captured the presence of heavy machinery conducting earthmoving operations. In the eastern part of the cemetery, 20 tombstones have survived to the present day.

GEOLOCATION:

The site is located on the right side of the road from Pambak village to Satanaghaj village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[14] and 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. Molla Älishräf Haji Molla Rähimzadäh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
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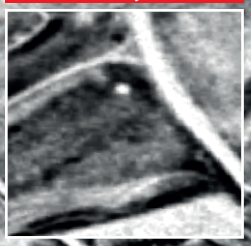
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
9. Lutfiyar Näsibov, *Goychä: Sädänaghach-Guney* (Baku: Apostrof-A, 2019), 102, 148.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A019*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2,* September 05, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *GeoEye-1*, August 05, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *WorldView-2*, September 21, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXIV-38 (*Mal. Mazra*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
15. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-128-V (*Pambak*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 053
Location: Satanaghaj village (*present-day Areguni village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia



0 100 200 metres

© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 053
Location: Satanaghaj village (*present-day Areguni village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia

0 100 200 metres

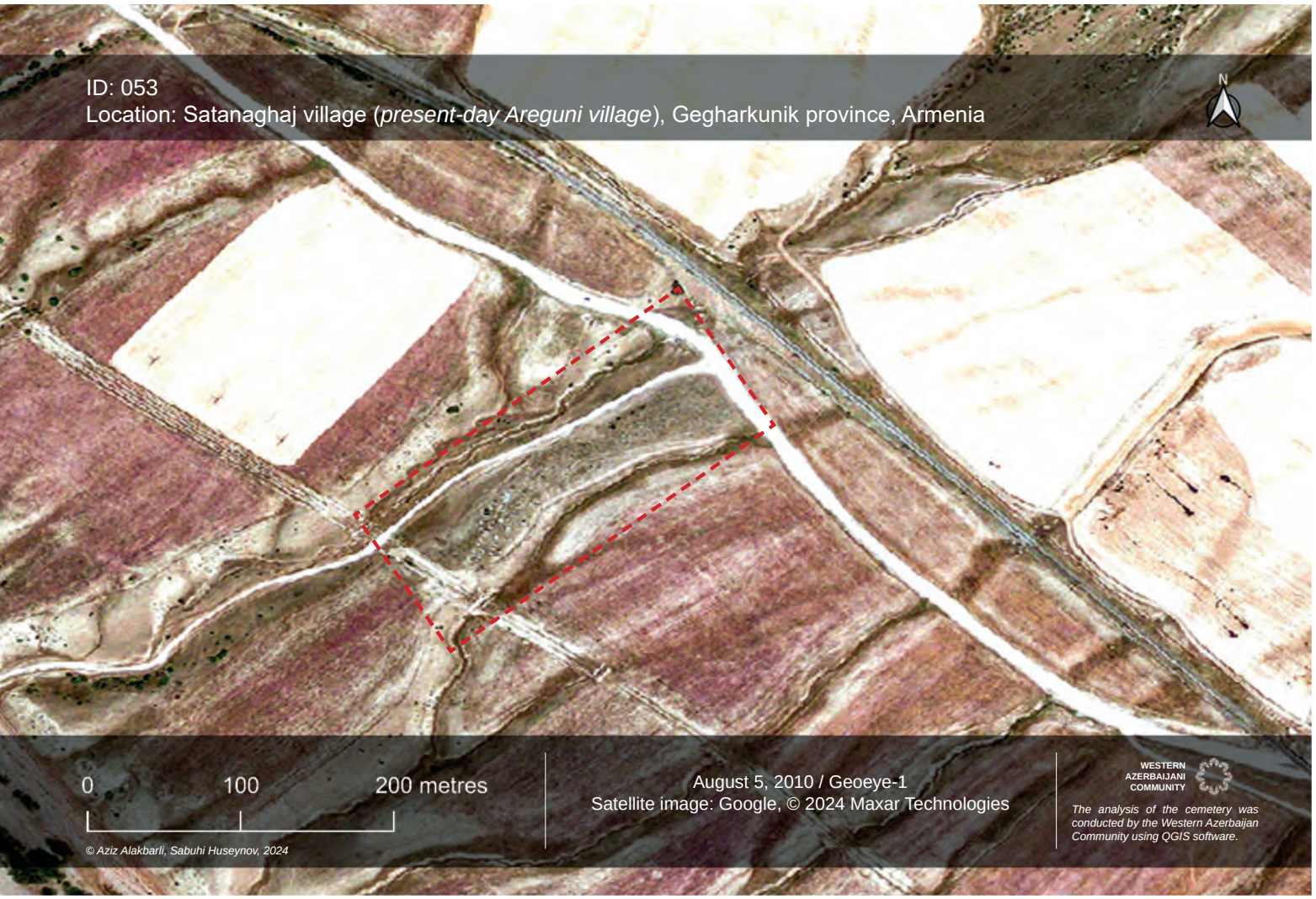
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 053
Location: Satanaghaj village (*present-day Areguni village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum demolished
Mausoleum demolished
0
90
180 metres
September 5, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024


ID: 053
Location: Satanaghaj village (*present-day Areguni village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
August 5, 2010 / Geoeye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 053
Location: Satanaghaj village (*present-day Areguni village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Road construction damaging cemetery
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

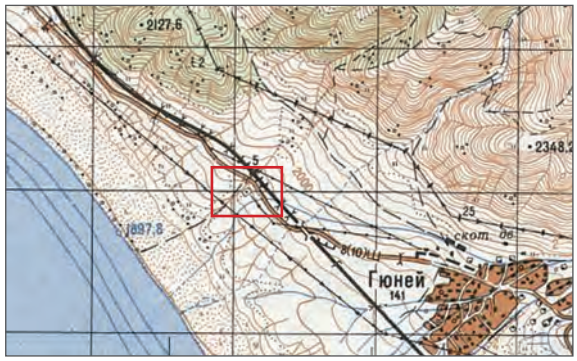
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topographic Directorate of the USSR.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2003

Status: DESTROYED

Shishgaya Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Shishgaya village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Geghamasar village (Armenian)
ID: 054 [MC-071], 40.3167770, 45.6799738

Shishgaya was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located south of Shishgaya mountain and near the river of the same name. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969 Though mentioned in historical sources from 1831 onward,[1] some scholars suggest that it might be the same as the 16th-century Shishlik village. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,088 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Shishgaya village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] On April 24 (19?), 1919, large-scale massacres were committed against the population of Shishgaya village during an Armenian attack. Survivors were forced to flee, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Shishgaya within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 416 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 4,000 Azerbaijani residents of Shishgaya village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Shishgaya village was renamed Gugarich,[8] and by the resolution dated August 8, 1991, it was renamed Geghamasar.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones over a 3.7-hectare area. The area was in good condition, with burial sites clearly visible mainly in the central and northern sections, while the southern section was identified as having a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern characteristic of old tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 26, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings indicated that the entire cemetery area was severely vandalized. In the western part of the area, earthmoving activities were carried out over an 80-meter stretch of land. A video recorded on May 15, 2003, provided insight into the extent of these destructions. Its analysis revealed that by 2003 (Images Nos. 1-6), the cemetery had been destroyed, many tombstones overturned, black marble headstones and grave slabs looted, and the site used as pastureland for livestock.

Photographs (Images Nos. 7-16) taken in May 2017 by visiting photographer Mathias Klingenberg, along with satellite imagery captured by WorldView-4 on May 28, 2018[12] indicated that despite the destruction, a significant portion of the cemetery's headstones remained standing. The satellite imagery captured in 2024[13] (Airbus) indicates that more than 130 tombstones were still standing.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the northern part of the village, on elevated terrain. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image with a margin of several hundred meters and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 112-113.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 222.
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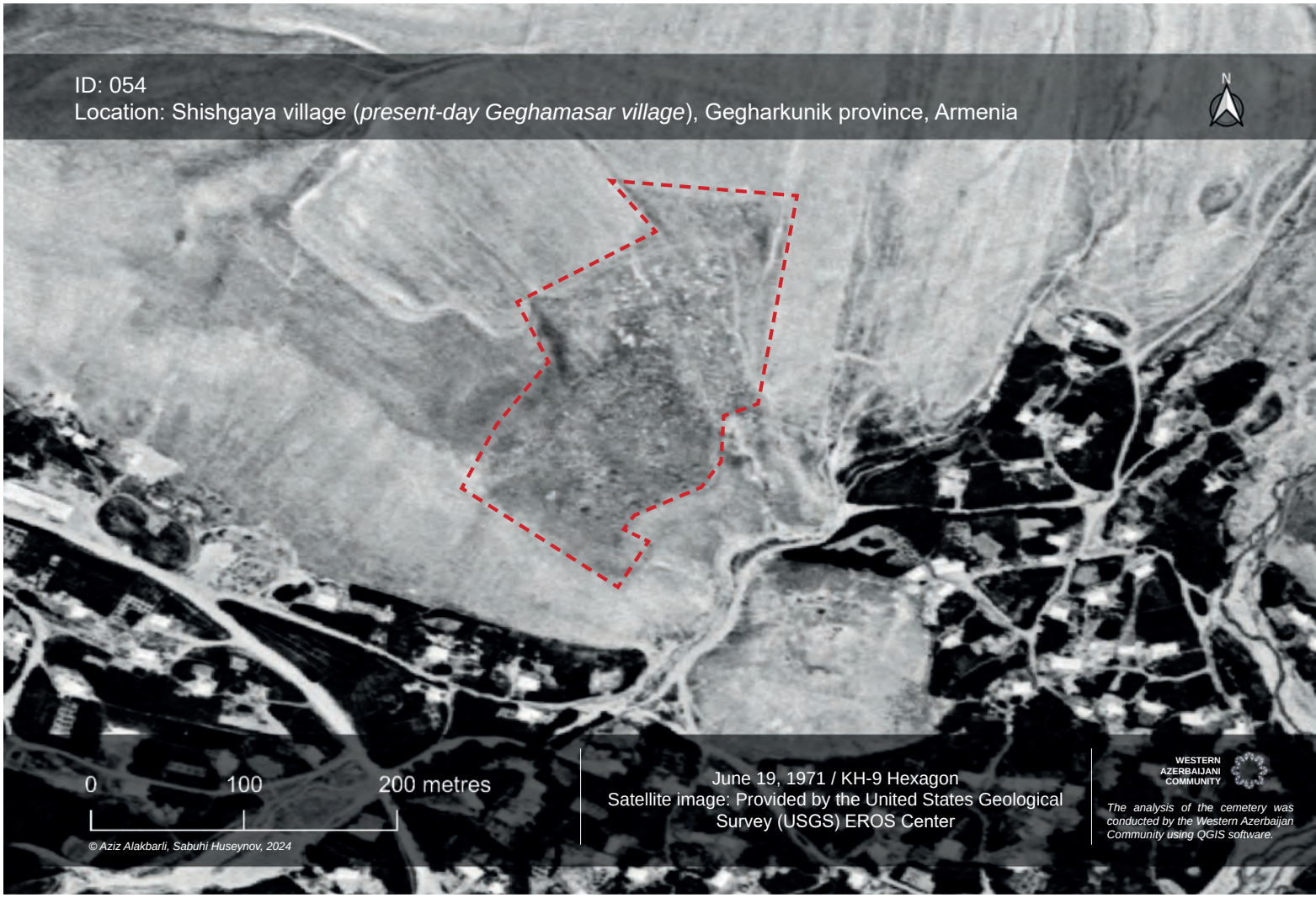
11. *QuickBird-2*, August 26, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *WorldView-4*, May 28, 2018, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. September 01, 2024. Soruce: Airbus via Google Earth.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXIV-38 (*Mal. Mazra*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.


ID: 054
Location: Shishgaya village (present-day Geghamasar village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 054
Location: Shishgaya village (present-day Geghamasar village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 26, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

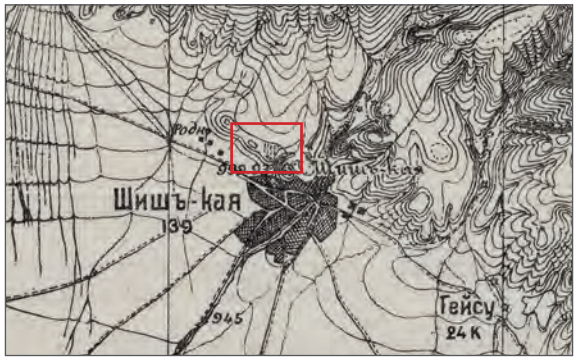
ID: 054
Location: Shishgaya village (*present-day Geghamasar village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 28, 2018 / WorldView-4
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 054
Location: Shishgaya village (*present-day Geghamasar village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY (**2003**):

Still frames from a footage filmed in 2003

PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY (**2017**):

7

8

9

10

11

© Mathias Klingenberg, May 2017

12

13

14

15

16

© Mathias Klingenberg, May 2017

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Shorja Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Yukhari Shorja village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Verin Shorzha village (Armenian)
ID: 015 [MC-467], 40.0819777, 45.82825071

Yukhari Shorja was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on the bank of the Keyti river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was originally known as Bash Keyti.[1] In cadastral- administrative surveys and statistical records, the village has been referred to as Shorja, Shorjali, Bash Shorjali, and finally Yukhari Shorjali. All these sources confirm that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 233 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Yukhari Shorja village, which had previously been part of the Basarkechar village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Republic of Armenia.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Yukhari Shorja within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 204 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 1,400 Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Shorja village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, fleeing Armenian violence and crimes to save their lives.[7]

There were two Muslim cemeteries within the village area. One of them was the old cemetery (*most likely the 19th-century cemetery of Bash Keyti village, A.A., S.H.*). The other was the modern Muslim cemetery of Yukhari Shorja village. There were three mausoleums in this cemetery. These mausoleums commemorated villagers named Salim, Alasgar, and Ibrahimkhalil.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and three mausoleums over a 1.67-hectare area. The cemetery area was found to be in good condition, with most graves concentrated in the central section. One mausoleum stood north of the graves, while the other two were located on the eastern and western sides. From the center outward, a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern characteristic of old tombstones was identified. The cemetery was surrounded by cultivated fields, and its boundaries were delineated by trenches.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2009[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings indicate that by 2006, significant destruction had occurred: all three mausoleums were reduced to their foundations. Among the tombstones identified in the KH-9 Hexagon image, approximately 20 remained in a severely damaged state. The tombstones surrounding Mausoleum No. 3 in the southwestern section were in relatively better condition, whereas all tombstones in the southern part had been destroyed. Traces of heavy machinery, typically used in agricultural fields, were observed throughout the cemetery area, particularly in the southern and western sections. A comparative analysis of the QuickBird-2 satellite imagery dated 2006 and the satellite imagery dated October 23, 2021[11] indicated that the cemetery's condition had remained unchanged during this period. However, the 2024[12] satellite image highlights an impending threat of total obliteration. This threat arises from the construction of military fortifications and supply roads servicing those fortifications, which were built 20 meters south of the cemetery and 27 meters to the north.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 400 meters southwest of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet military-topographic map published in 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), pod ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Molla Älishräf Haji Molla Rähimzadäh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
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8. The information was provided by the Western Azerbaijan Community.
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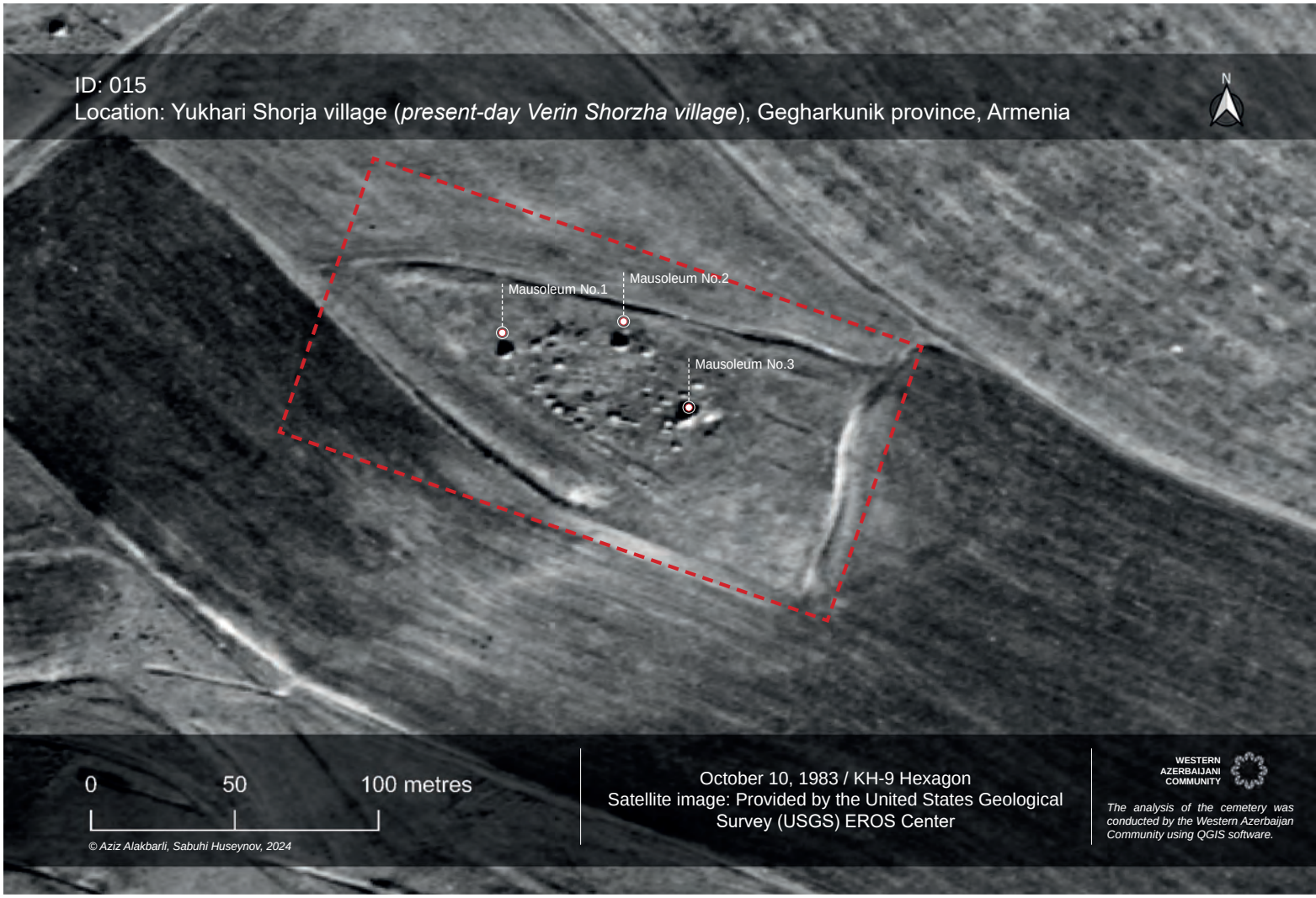
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. October 23, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. September 01, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, K-38-140-G (*Dashkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1973.

ID: 015
Location: Yukhari Shorja village (*present-day Verin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia



© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 015
Location: Yukhari Shorja village (*present-day Verin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia

© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies

WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY

The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 015
Location: Yukhari Shorja village (*present-day Verin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Cultivated land
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 015
Location: Yukhari Shorja village (*present-day Verin Shorzha village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Supply route
Supply route
Supply route
Supply route
Military fortification
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1973

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1973 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2009

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Zaghali Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Yukhari Zaghali village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Akhpradzor village (Armenian)
ID: 013 [MC-428], 40.0970951, 45.6394478

Yukhari Zaghali was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located at the foot of Dikpillakan mountain, on both banks of the Gizilkilsa river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The original name of the village was Gizilkilsa, as referenced in historical sources as early as the 18th century.[1] In subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records, the village was referred to as Zaghali[2], 2nd Kharaba Gizilkilsa, Tatar Zaghalisi, and finally as Yukhari Zaghali. These sources affirm that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,018 Azerbaijani *(referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.)* residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Yukhari Zaghali, which had previously been part of the Zaghali village commune within the 3rd police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Republic of Armenia.[4] On January 31, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. The population was massacred, and the surviving residents were forced to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenian forces.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Yukhari Zaghali within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 194 Azerbaijanis returned, restored the village, and resettled. Between 1922 and 1926, 134 Armenian refugees were settled in the village. The influx continued until 1931, by which time their number had reached 397.[7] In 1949, 310 Azerbaijani residents of the village were deported to Ali Bayramli district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Yukhari Zaghali was renamed Akhpradzor.[9]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 500 Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Zaghali village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 8, 1977[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 0.67-hectare area. The area was in good condition, with burial sites primarily concentrated in an orderly arrangement in the eastern section. In the western section, the terrain exhibited a heterogeneous, patchy surface characteristic of older tombstones. The cemetery was enclosed with a fence, and a dirt road was visible along the northern, western, and southern boundaries.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1977 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 5, 2009[12] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) was conducted to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis identified a newly constructed dirt road, five meters wide and 130 meters long, running through the cemetery. This road split the cemetery into two sections, and all graves along its path were obliterated. A comparison of the GeoEye-1 satellite imagery from 2009 with Worldview-2 satellite imagery dated September 21, 2019[13] showed that a 1,250-square-meter portion of the cemetery had been completely cleared and replaced with a stadium. This confirmed that the area had been entirely obliterated, except for the stones piled up in the southeastern part as remnants of the destruction. Photographs taken in 2022 to 2024 in the cemetery area and the Airbus satellite imagery dated September 1, 2024[14] confirmed that approximately 15 damaged tombstones existed in this section (Images Nos. 1-4).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the western part of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1973 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1977 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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12. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. *WorldView-2*, September 21, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. September 01, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
15. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, K-38-140-V (*Akunk*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1973.

ID: 013
Location: Yukhari Zaghali village (*present-day Akhpradzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 6, 1977 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 013
Location: Yukhari Zaghali village (*present-day Akhpradzor village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

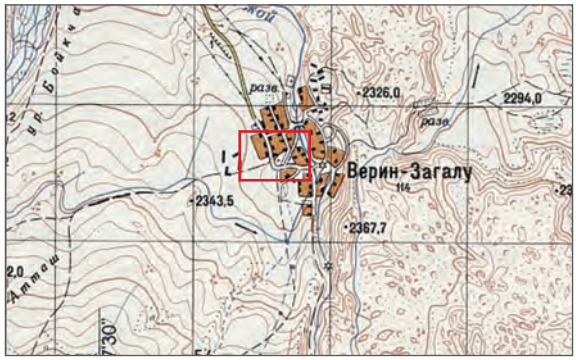
ID: 013
Location: Yukhari Zaghali village (present-day Akhpradzor village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 013
Location: Yukhari Zaghali village (present-day Akhpradzor village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 1, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1973

Marked on a *1:50,000-scale* topographic map published in 1973 by the Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography under the USSR Council of Ministers.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Zarkend Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Zarkend village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Kut village (Armenian)
ID: 037 [MC-077], 40.1836546, 45.8947755

Zarkend was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located near Zarzebil river, which flows into Zod river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. The village was originally known as Zarzebil. Historical sources mention the village as early as the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records confirm that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 841 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Zarkend village, which had previously been part of the *Boyuk Mazra village commune* within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Zarkend within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 581 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Zarzebil village was renamed Zarkend.[7] In 1953, a part of the village's population—114 people—was deported to the villages of Mirbashir and Ismayilli in the Barda district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of Zarkend village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Zarkend village was renamed Kut.[10]

Two mausoleums once stood in this village cemetery: one dedicated to Hamid Ismayilov and the other to Sitara Nabiyeva, local inhabitants.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 19, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and two mausoleums over a 0.6-hectare area. The area was originally well maintained, with most graves located in the central and northwestern sections.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and February 11, 2005[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings indicated that the entire cemetery area was severely vandalized. Both mausoleums had been destroyed by this date. However, despite being subjected to vandalism, more than 30 headstones remained standing. The GeoEye-1 satellite imagery dated October 5, 2009[13] further confirmed that most of the destruction had taken place before 2005. A 2013 video recording and 2018 drone footage confirmed that, by those years, only 20 tombstones remained standing (Images Nos. 1-8), while all other grave slabs and headstones had been destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

The Zarkend cemetery is situated north of the village, on a high hill. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1954 (1:25,000 scale)[14] and 1976 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1954 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 216.
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12. *QuickBird-2*, Feburary 11, 2005, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.
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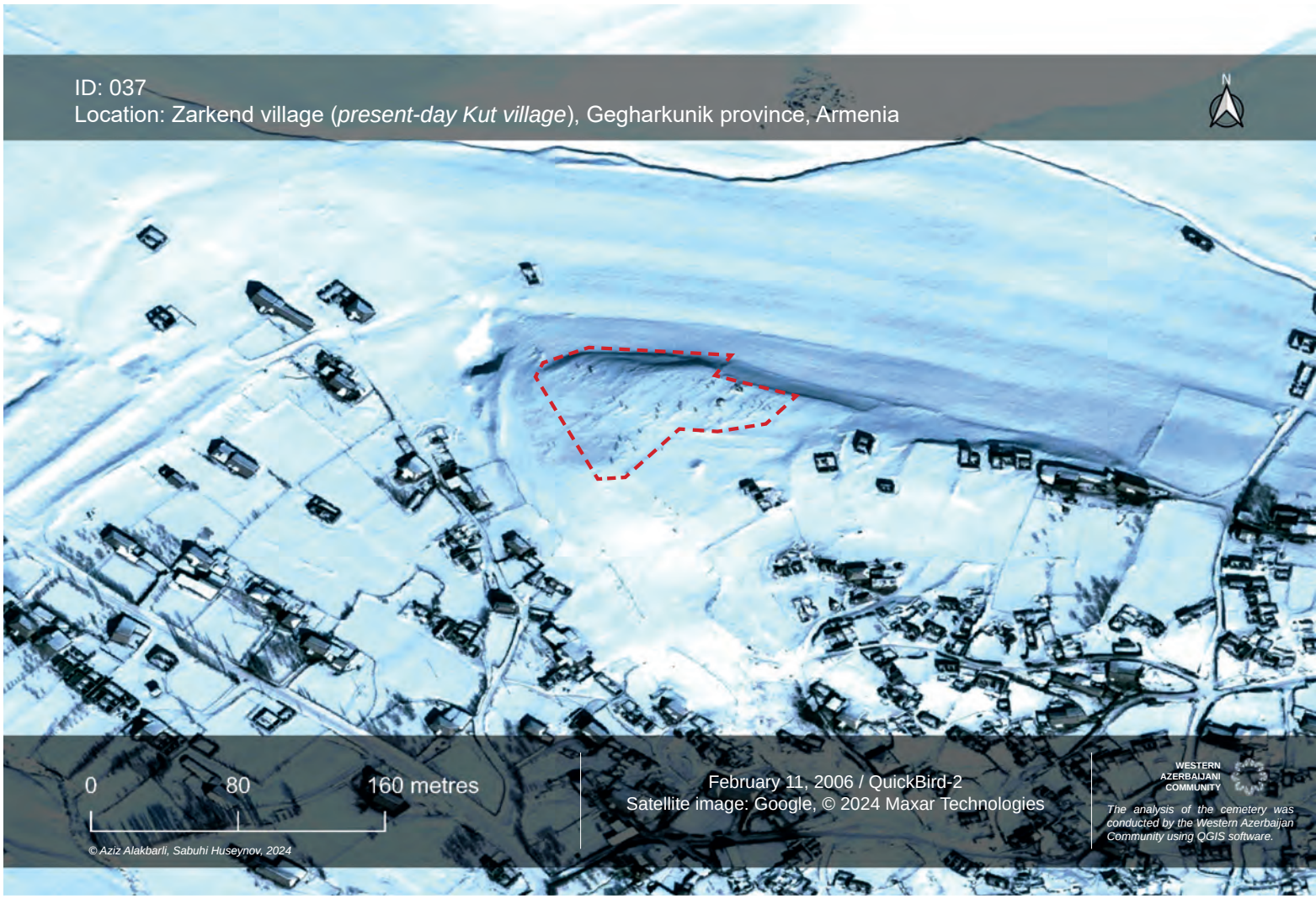
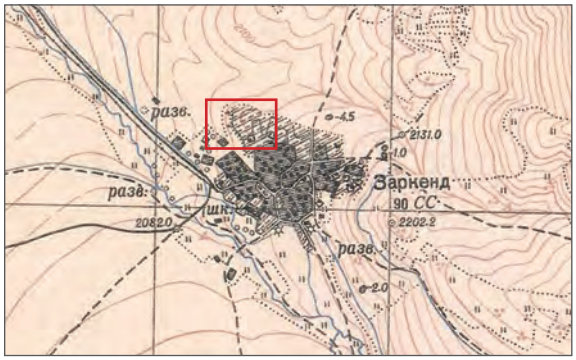
ID: 037
Location: Zarkend village (*present-day Kut village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 037
Location: Zarkend village (*present-day Kut village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 11, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

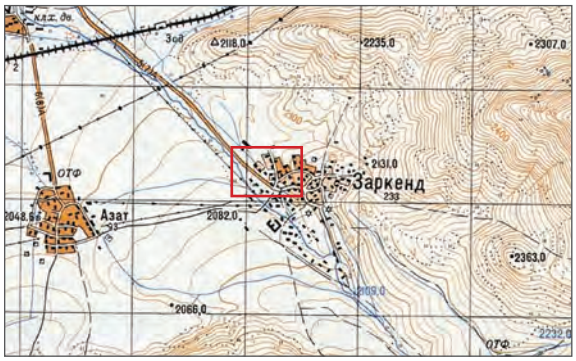
1954

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1954 by the Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography under the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.



1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY (**2018**):

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

From 1989 to 2009

Status: DESTROYED

Zod Village Cemetery

Location: Basarkechar district, Zod village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Sotk village (Armenian)
ID: 035 [MC-074], 40.2014282, 45.8763045

Zod was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, situated on the right bank of the Gasimsu river. It was incorporated into Basarkechar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Vardenis district on June 11, 1969. Historical sources mention the village as early as the 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,968 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Zod village, which had previously been part of the Boyuk Mazra village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] From April 13 to 20, 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee while the village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Zod village within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 1046 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 5,000 Azerbaijani residents of Zod village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Zod village was renamed Sotk.[8]

In the village cemetery stood the mausoleums of Gara Sayyid and Tapdig Amiraslanov, a resident of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 19, 1983[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and two mausoleums over a 5-hectare area. Initially, the cemetery was in good condition, with most graves concentrated in the central and northern sections. In the western and southern sections of the cemetery, a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern characteristic of old tombstones was identified.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 15, 2006[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The comparative analysis revealed that, by 2006, destruction in the northern, central, and southern parts of the cemetery primarily consisted of acts of vandalism targeting the graves, including the breaking of tombstones. However, the shadows of most headstones confirmed their continued presence. The mausoleums that were seen in the north and center of the cemetery in the KH-9 Hexagon image were intact as of 2006. The destruction of these mausoleums was confirmed through a comparative analysis of the 2006 QuickBird-2 image and the October 5, 2009[11] GeoEye-1 image. This comparison indicates that during this period, both mausoleums were destroyed, with their domes removed. Photographs taken within the cemetery area clearly demonstrate that the tombstones were subjected to severe acts of vandalism (Images Nos. 2-11). A comparison with satellite imagery dated July 11, 2024[12] suggests that conditions on the cemetery grounds have remained unchanged in recent years.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the northeastern part of the village, 200 meters north of Gasimsu river, on a high hill. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1954 (1:25,000 scale)[13], 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[14], and 1979 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1954 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite image and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. Molla Älishräf Haji Molla Rähimzadäh to the Head of Ganja Uyezd, letter, April 17, 1919, ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 114, ll. 18–19.
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7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 218.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 15, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *GeoEye-1*, October 05, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. July 11, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. Glavnoe Upravlenie Geodezii i Kartografii MVD SSSR, *K-38-140-B-g (Zarkend)* [map], scale 1:25,000, 1954.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140-B (*Mets-Mazra*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-140 (*Vardenis*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1979.

ID: 035
Location: Zod village (*present-day Sotk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum clearly visible
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 035
Location: Zod village (*present-day Sotk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum clearly visible
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 15, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

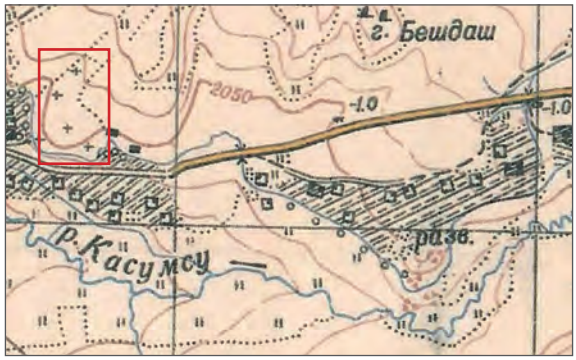
ID: 035
Location: Zod village (*present-day Sotk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum demolished
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 5, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijani Community using QGIS software.

ID: 035
Location: Zod village (*present-day Sotk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 11, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijani Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

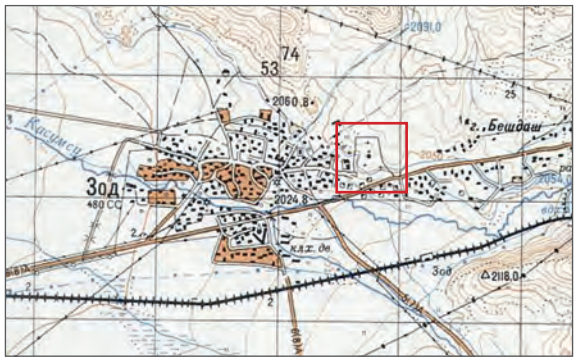
1954

Marked on a *1:25,000-scale* topographic map published in 1954 by the Main Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography under the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.



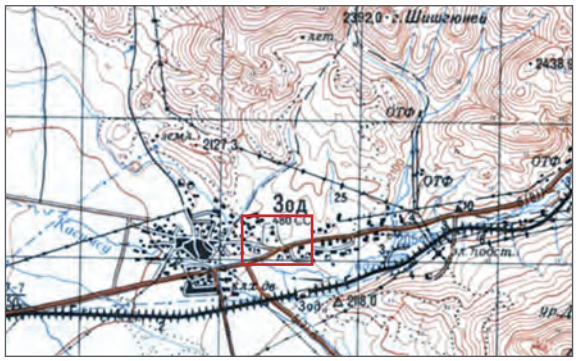
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1979

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



A SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE CEMETERY:

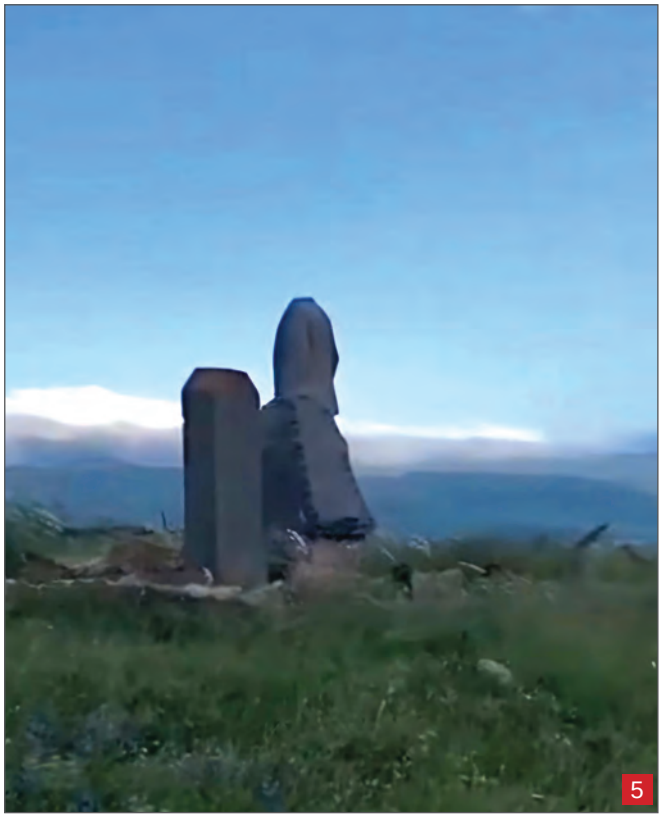
Zod Cemetery, an expedition by the Committee for the Protection of Archaeological Monuments of the Armenian SSR in the 1920s,
© Avetis Grigoryan, Arsen Bobokhyan, "Operation Zod: Postscript," // Sotk. The Cultural Memory of the Land (Yerevan: HAI Publishing House, 2022), p. 219.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

2

3

4


5

6

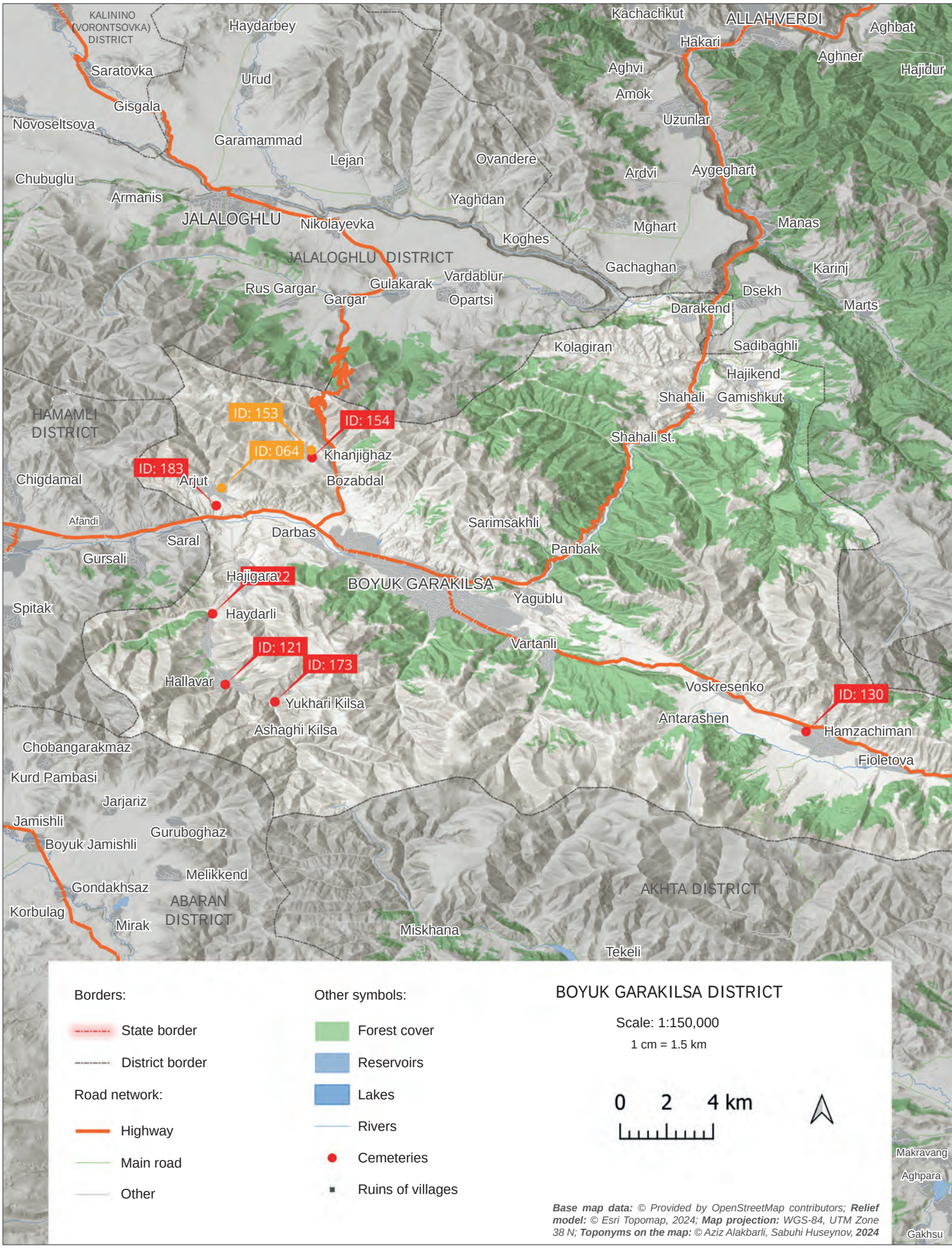
7

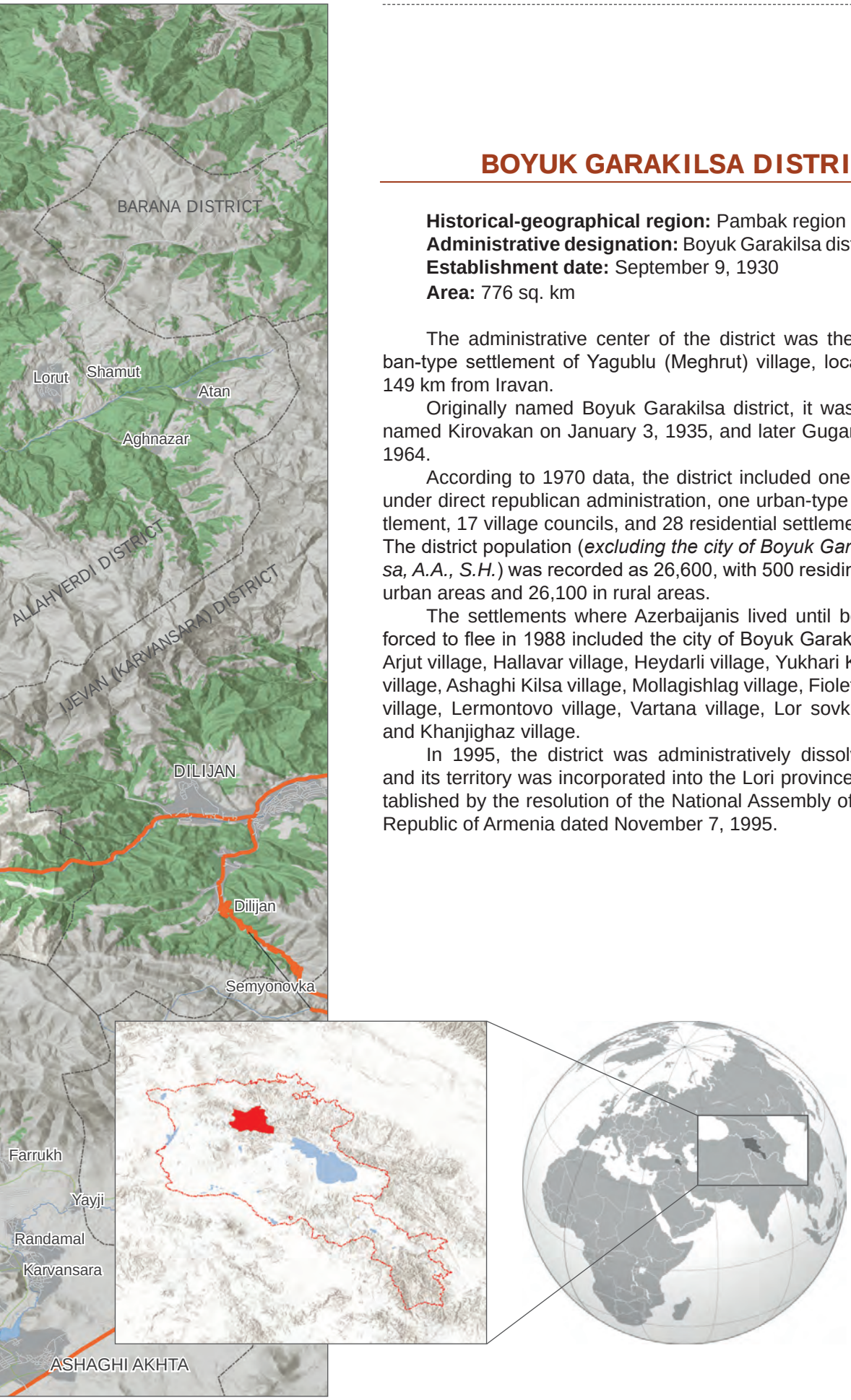
МУКЯЕИБ
ӘСӘНОВ
МӘһӘММӘД
САДЫГ ОҒЛУ
1886-1973
ОҒЛУ
ЕЛРАЗДАН
ЈАДИКАР
8

9

10

11


KALININO (VORONTSOVKA) DISTRICT
Haydarbey
Saratovka
Urud
Gisgala
Novoseltsova
Garamammad
Lejan
Ovandere
Chubuglu
Armanis
JALALOGHLU
Nikolayevka
Yaghdan
Koghes
JALALOGHLU DISTRICT
Rus Gargar
Gulakarak
Vardablur
Gargar
Opartsi
HAMAMLI DISTRICT
ID: 153
ID: 154
ID: 064
Khanjighaz
ID: 183
Chigdamal
Arjut
Bozabdal
Afandi
Darbas
Sarimsakhli
Saral
Gursali
Panbak
Hajigara 2
BOYUK GARAKILSA
Yagublu
Spitak
Haydarli
Vartanli
ID: 121
ID: 173
Hallavar
Yukhari Kilsa
Ashaghi Kilsa
Voskresenko
ID: 130
Antarashen
Hamzachiman
Chobangarakmaz
Fioletova
Kurd Pambasi
Jarjariz
Jamishli
Guruboghaz
Boyuk Jamishli
Melikkend
Gondakhsaz
ABARAN DISTRICT
AKHTA DISTRICT
Korbulag
Mirak
Miskhana
Tekeli
Kachachkut
ALLAHVERDI
Aghbat
Hakari
Aghner
Hajidur
Aghvi
Amok
Uzunlar
Ardvi
Aygeghart
Manas
Mghart
Gachaghan
Karinj
Dsekh
Marts
Darakend
Kolagiran
Sadibaghli
Hajikend
Shahali
Gamishkut
Shahali st.
Makravang
Aghpara
Gakhsu
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
BOYUK GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1.5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



BOYUK GARAKILSA DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Pambak region
Administrative designation: Boyuk Garakilsa district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930
Area: 776 sq. km

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Yagublu (Meghrut) village, located 149 km from Iravan.

Originally named Boyuk Garakilsa district, it was renamed Kirovakan on January 3, 1935, and later Gugark in 1964.

According to 1970 data, the district included one city under direct republican administration, one urban-type settlement, 17 village councils, and 28 residential settlements. The district population (*excluding the city of Boyuk Garakilsa, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 26,600, with 500 residing in urban areas and 26,100 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the city of Boyuk Garakilsa, Arjut village, Hallavar village, Heydarli village, Yukhari Kilsa village, Ashaghi Kilsa village, Mollagishlag village, Fioletovo village, Lermontovo village, Vartana village, Lor sovkhoz, and Khanjighaz village.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Lori province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1994 to 2023

Status: DESTROYED

Arjut Village Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Arjut village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Arjut village (Armenian)
ID: 064 [MC-032], 40.8620693, 44.3808679

Arjut was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located at the foot of Bozabdal mountain, near the Pambak river. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. Historical sources mention the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1908 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 636 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

Between 1918 and 1921, Arjut village was subjected to Armenian aggression seven times, forcing the local population to abandon the village. To escape the Armenian violence, part of the population fled to Garakhan village, located in the Shorayel district of the Kars province, within the *Kars uezd*. In February 1920, Garakhan village also came under Armenian attack, and the refugees from Arjut were once again forced to flee, this time together with the local inhabitants of Garakhan.[3] In 1921, 697 Azerbaijanis returned to Arjut, rebuilt the village, and resettled.[4] However, even after 1921, acts of aggression against the population of the village continued, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 3349 Azerbaijani residents of Arjut village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (*at right, top*) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. Tombstones were identified by their characteristically heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 2, 2010[8] (WorldView-2) (*at right, bottom*) was conducted to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The findings revealed that the cemetery had been destroyed. The graves located in the northeastern section were found to have been obliterated, and the area had been fenced off for various land uses. Subsequent analysis of satellite imagery indicates that the destruction of the cemetery occurred in two stages:

First stage: The destruction began with the looting of the cemetery following the expulsion of the local population. Based on video footage recorded in 1994, 1997, and 1998, the authors suggest that the cemetery was destroyed between 1989 and 1994. Reports published in the Armenian press in 2007 indicate that, of the three Azerbaijani cemeteries in Arjut village, two had been obliterated, while the third had suffered severe damage.[9]

Stage 2: A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2010, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) and 2016[11] (GeoEye-1) revealed that by those years, encroachment had already occurred in the northeastern section of the cemetery. Further analysis of satellite imagery dated 2016 and 2020[12] (GeoEye-1) confirmed that encroachment in the northern and northeastern areas had intensified, marked by extensive earthmoving operations. This process of destruction began with the operation of bulldozers in the northeastern part of the cemetery, resulting in the complete obliteration of tombstones. The cleared land was subsequently repurposed as a recreational area for a hotel named Angine Resort. A satellite image dated 30 June 2023[13] (Spot 6) confirmed that construction had been completed and the obliteration of the cemetery fully carried out.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the north of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 144.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 37.
3. Nazim Mustafa, *Irävan quberniyasïnda azärbayjanlïlarïn soyqïrïmï* (1918-1920) (Baku:Elm, 2017), 114.
4. *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni mezalimi,* IV. jilt (1920-1922) (Ankara: Osmanli Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 143-150.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 112-113.
6. Alakberli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï*, 144-145.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, June 02, 2010, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
9. Naira Bulghadaryan, "Armenia: Sad Fate of Azeri Graves: Government Won't Fund Restoration of Azerbaijani Cemeteries, Saying They Do Not Have Any Intrinsic Cultural Value," *IWPR*, September 20, 2007.
10. *WorldView-2*, March 26, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *Geo Eye-1*, September 25, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *Geo Eye-1*, June 22, 2020, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. *Spot 6*, June 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113-B (*Giulagark*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

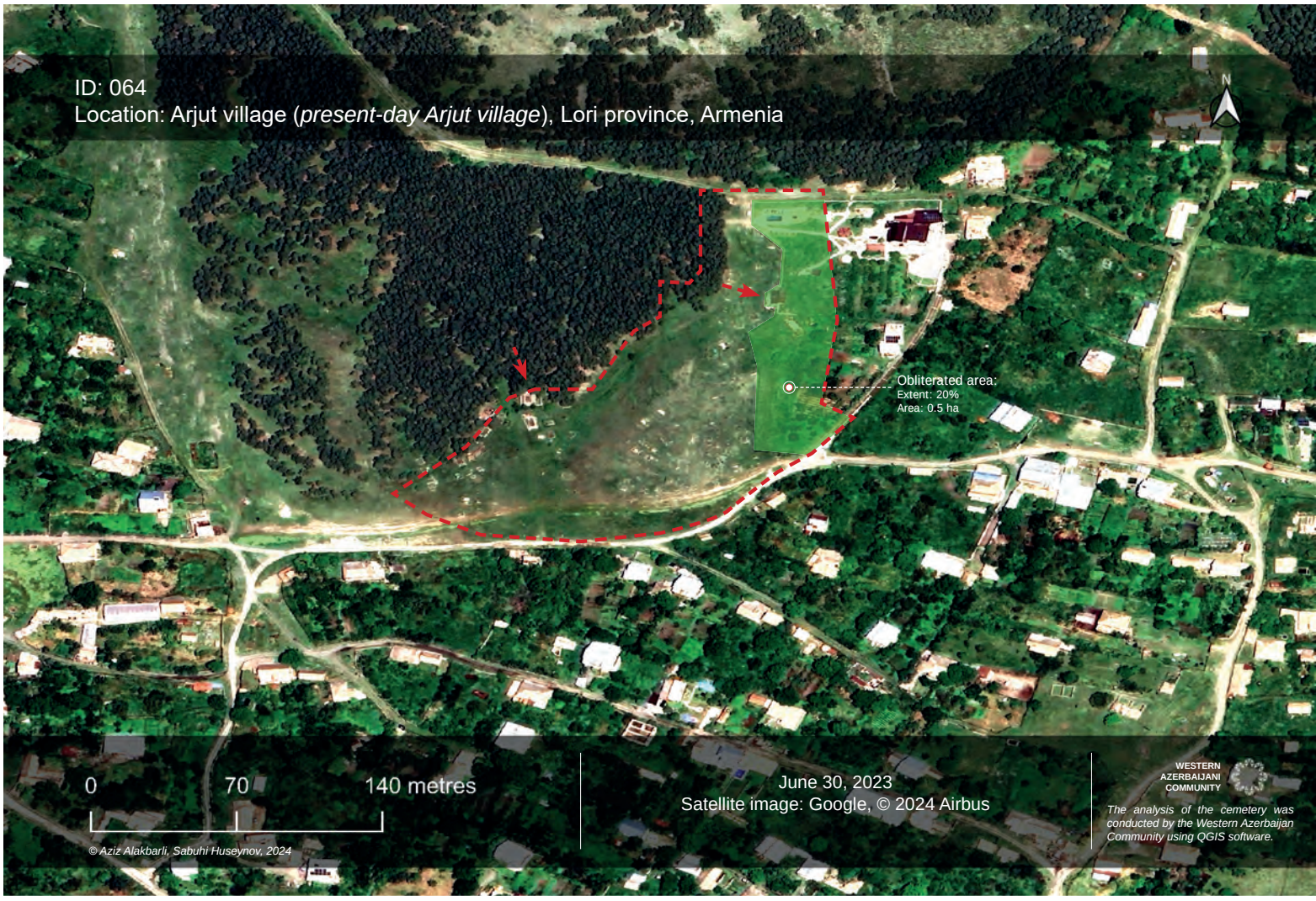
ID: 064
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 064
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
Obliterated area
Extent: 8.3%
Area: 0.2 ha
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 2, 2010 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 064
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
Obliterated area:
Extent: 8.3%
Area: 0.2 ha
0
70
140 metres
March 26, 2010 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 064
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
Obliterated area:
Extent: 20%
Area: 0.5 ha
0
70
140 metres
September 25, 2016 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

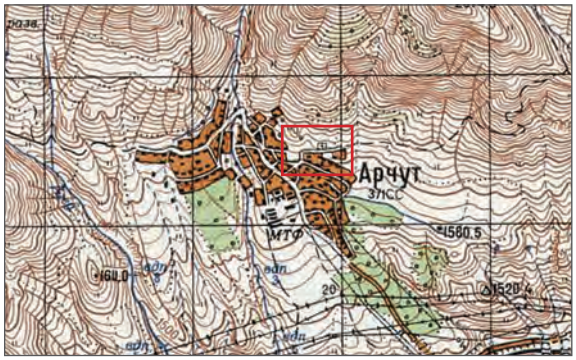
ID: 064
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
Obliterated area:
Extent: 20%
Area: 0.5 ha
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 22, 2020 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 064
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
Obliterated area:
Extent: 20%
Area: 0.5 ha
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



THE HOTEL BUILT
ON THE CEMETERY SITE:

1

2

3

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

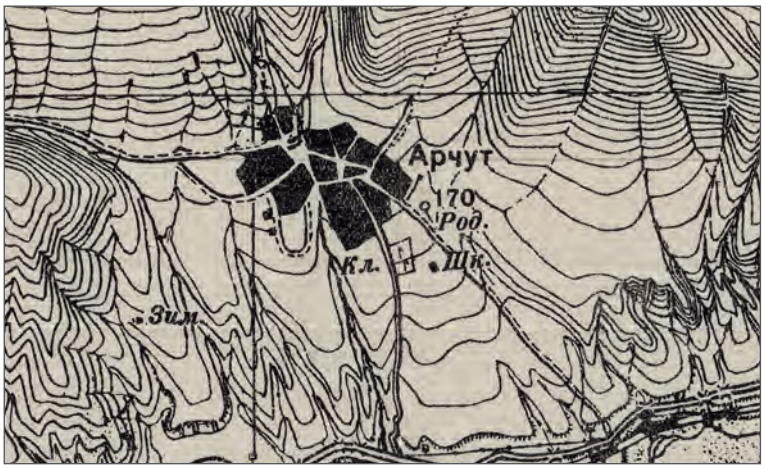
© Caliber.az, July, 2022

From 2011 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Arjut Village Old Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Arjut village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Arjut village (Armenian)
ID: 183 [MC-433], 44.3782270, 40.8531589



Arjut was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located at the foot of Bozabdal mountain, near the Pambak river. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. Historical sources mention the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1908 edition of the Caucasian Calendar ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 636 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

Between 1918 and 1921, Arjut village was subjected to Armenian aggression seven times, forcing the local population to abandon the village.[3] To escape the Armenian violence, part of the population fled to Garakhan village, located in the Shorayel district of the Kars province, within the *Kars uezd*. In February 1920, Garakhan village also came under Armenian attack, and the refugees from Arjut were once again forced to flee, this time together with the local inhabitants of Garakhan.[4] In 1921, 697 Azerbaijanis returned to Arjut, rebuilt the village, and resettled.[5] However, even after 1921, acts of aggression against the population of the village continued, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 3349 Azerbaijani residents of Arjut village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (*at right, top*) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. The tombstones were identified by their heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and March 26, 2011[8] (WorldView-2) (*at right, bottom*) was conducted to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The results confirmed that by the latter date, the cemetery had been obliterated, and construction had commenced on the site for the development of a farm. However, several destroyed tombstones remained visible approximately 30 meters southeast of two completed farm hangars. As satellite imagery from the 1990s is not yet available, efforts to determine the approximate date of destruction relied on earlier video footage recorded prior to the establishment of the farm structures. Footage from July 1994 clearly shows tombstones present in the area, confirming that the destruction of the cemetery occurred at some point between 1994 and 2010. The final remnants of the destroyed cemetery were identified in satellite imagery dated June 30, 2023.[9]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located south of the village, on the left side of the road leading to the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1937 (1:42,000 scale)[10] and 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 144.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 37.
3. Nazim Mustafa, *Irävan quberniyasïnda azärbaycanlïlarïn soyqïrïmï* (1918-1920) (Baku:Elm, 2017), 114.
4. *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni mezalimi,* IV. jilt (1920-1922) (Ankara: Osmanli Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 143-150.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 112-113.
6. Alakberli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlï'larï'n 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï*, 144-145.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, March 26, 2011, Maxar.
9. *Spot 6*, June 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
10. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, XXXI-33 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1937.
11. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113-B (*Giulagark*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 180
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

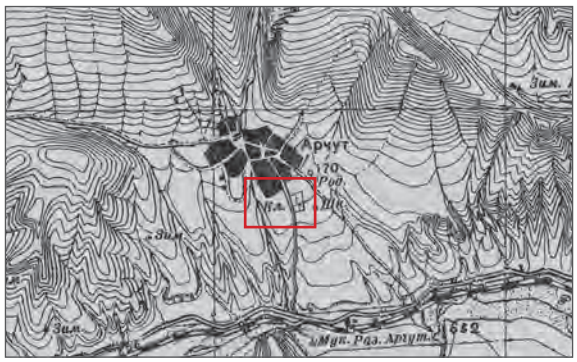
ID: 180
Location: Arjut village (*present-day Arjut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 26, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 180
Location: Arjut village (present-day Arjut village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

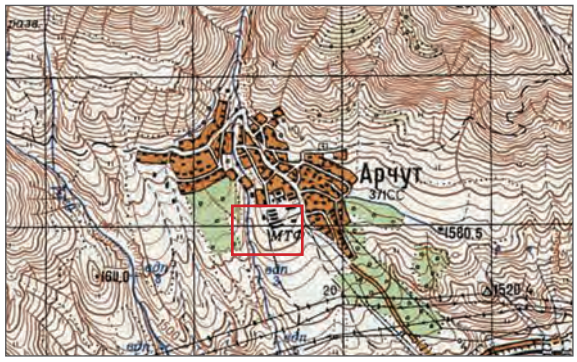
1937

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

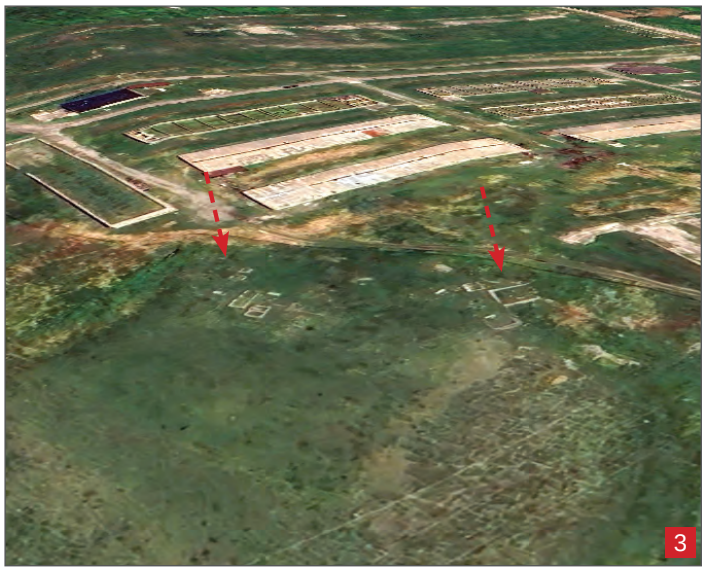


1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:



© Google, 2024, Airbus, 2023

From 2005 to 2019

Status: OBLITERATED

Hallavar Village Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Hallavar village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Halavar village (Armenian)
ID: 121 [MC-124], 40.762482, 44.382779

Hallavar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located near the Hallavar river, on the right bank of the Pambak river, between the villages of Yukhari Kilsa and Heydarli. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*).

In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[2] One of the documents preserved in the Ottoman archives indicates that, prior to those events, 1,600 Azerbaijanis were residing in the village.[3] In 1921, 644 Azerbaijanis returned, restored the village, and resettled.[4] However, even after 1921, acts of aggression against the population of the village continued, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 700 Azerbaijani residents of Hallavar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[6] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery and identified tombstones primarily in the eastern and northern parts of a 5-hectare area located on the slope of a high hill. In the remaining areas, the cemetery was characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 14, 2019[7] (WorldView-2) (at right, top) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. However, these images did not allow for a full and comprehensive assessment of the cemetery's condition in the subsequent period. This limitation was due to natural conditions and dense vegetation growth at the time the satellite image was captured. Although the latter image indicated that some tombstones in the northeastern and central parts of the cemetery had been subjected to destruction, the analysis of other sections remained inconclusive.

To assess the condition of the tombstones in greater detail, the authors relied on video footage believed to have been recorded between 2000 and 2010. Analysis of photographs extracted from video footage revealed that the cemetery began to be deliberately destroyed following the deportation. Older, unnamed tombstones bearing inscriptions in the Arabic script were found to be tilted or toppled due to natural factors. These graves appeared to have been relatively less affected by human activity (Images Nos. 1-3). In contrast, tombstones belonging to Azerbaijanis buried during the Soviet period exhibited signs of targeted vandalism carried out with particular brutality.

Tombstones were broken, inscriptions on the headstones defaced, and in many cases, the portraits of the deceased were deliberately scratched off. Specially painted tombstones were shattered, and all black marble headstones had been removed. Only three broken black marble headstones were found (Images Nos. 4-10); the rest were likely looted and could no longer be identified.

Thus, the largest and most historic cemetery in the Pambak region was subjected to systematic vandalism and destruction between 2005 and 2019.

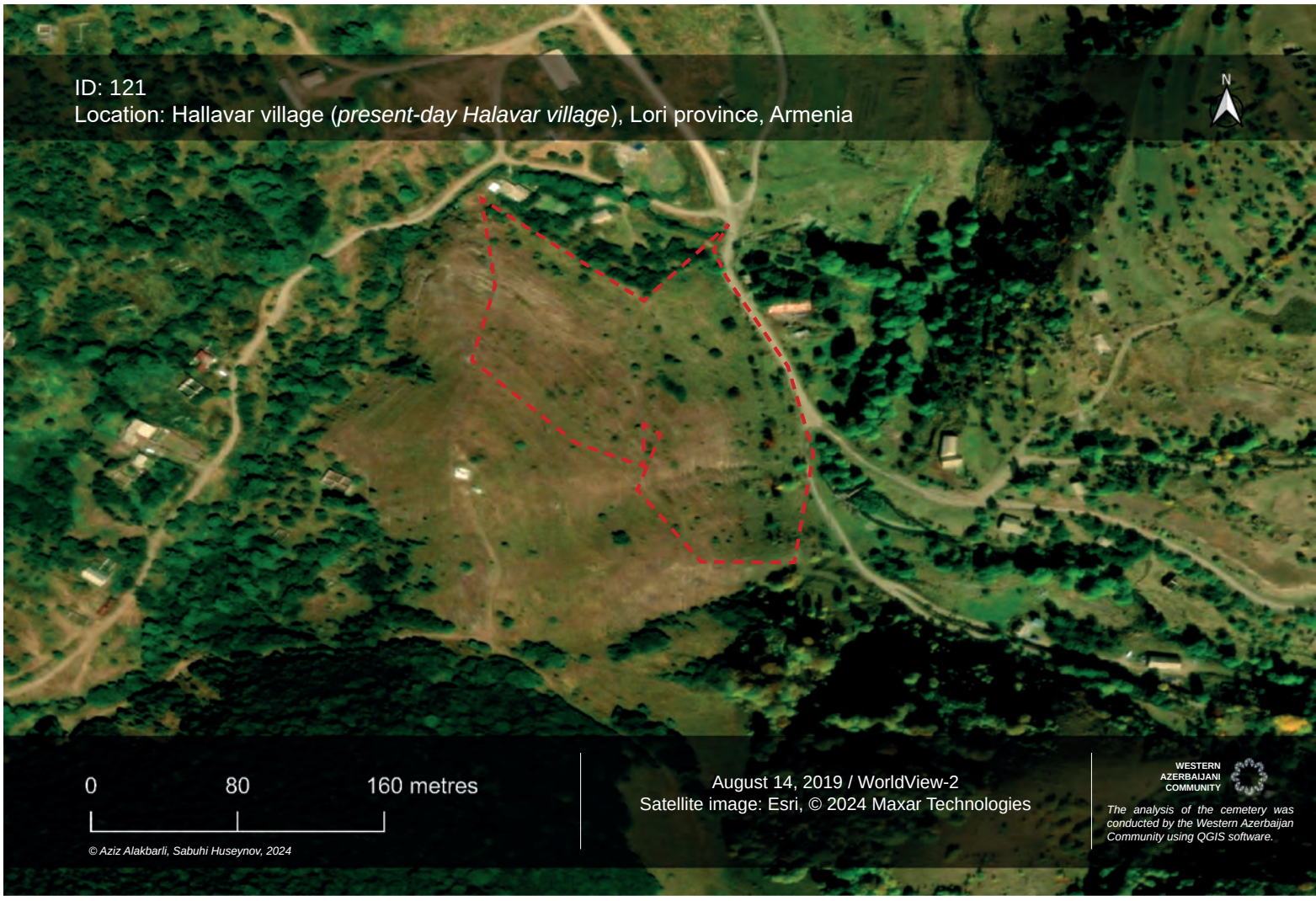
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the right of the road leading to the village of Yukhari Kilsa, at an elevation ranging from 1,677 to 1,760 meters above sea level. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000[8] and 1:100,000[9] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Tiflis äyalätinin mufässäl däftäri: Borchalï vä Qazakh (1728),* pref., trans., and comm. by Shahin. Mustafayev, 2nd ed. (Baku: Elm, 2022), 223.
2. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-coghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 138.
3. Karakilse ve Celaloghlu mıntıkalarındaki İslam koylerinin kıtlık tehlikesine maruz kaldıkları, *Belge No. 27,* in *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 149.
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 112-113.
5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 139.
6. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
7. *WorldView-2*, August 14, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
8. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113-G (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
9. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

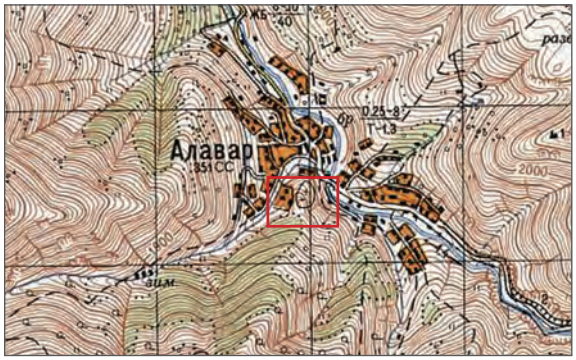
ID: 121
Location: Hallavar village (*present-day Halavar village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 121
Location: Hallavar village (*present-day Halavar village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 14, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

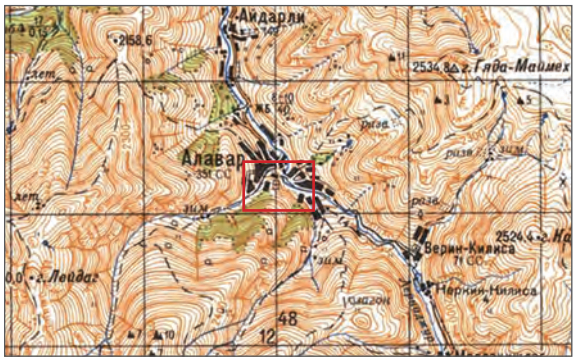
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

Still frames from video footage dating from 2000–2010

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Still frames from video footage dating from 2000–2010

From 2011 to 2017

Status: OBLITERATED

Hamzachiman Village Muslim Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Hamzachiman village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Margahovit village (Armenian)
ID: 130 [MC-514], 40.738632, 44.677465

© Armenian Academy of Sciences. Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, 2014

Hamzachiman was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located on the bank of the Aghstafachay (Hamzachiman) river. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 16th century. The village was historically inhabited by Azerbaijanis. According to the cadastral-administrative survey of 1831, only Armenians were residing in the village at that time. However, the annotation thereof noted that these Armenian inhabitants had been resettled from the present-day Iranian territory after 1828. The village was later renamed Bozkend.

By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Hamzachiman village was renamed Margahovit.

One of the region's ancient Muslim cemeteries was located within the territory of the village. This cemetery was also marked on military-topographic maps. In the 21st century, during archaeological excavations conducted by an Armenian expedition in the identified area, the existence of the Muslim cemetery had to be acknowledged.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[1] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, identifying it as an area of 1.8 hectares with a heterogeneous surface, characteristic of historic Muslim burial grounds.

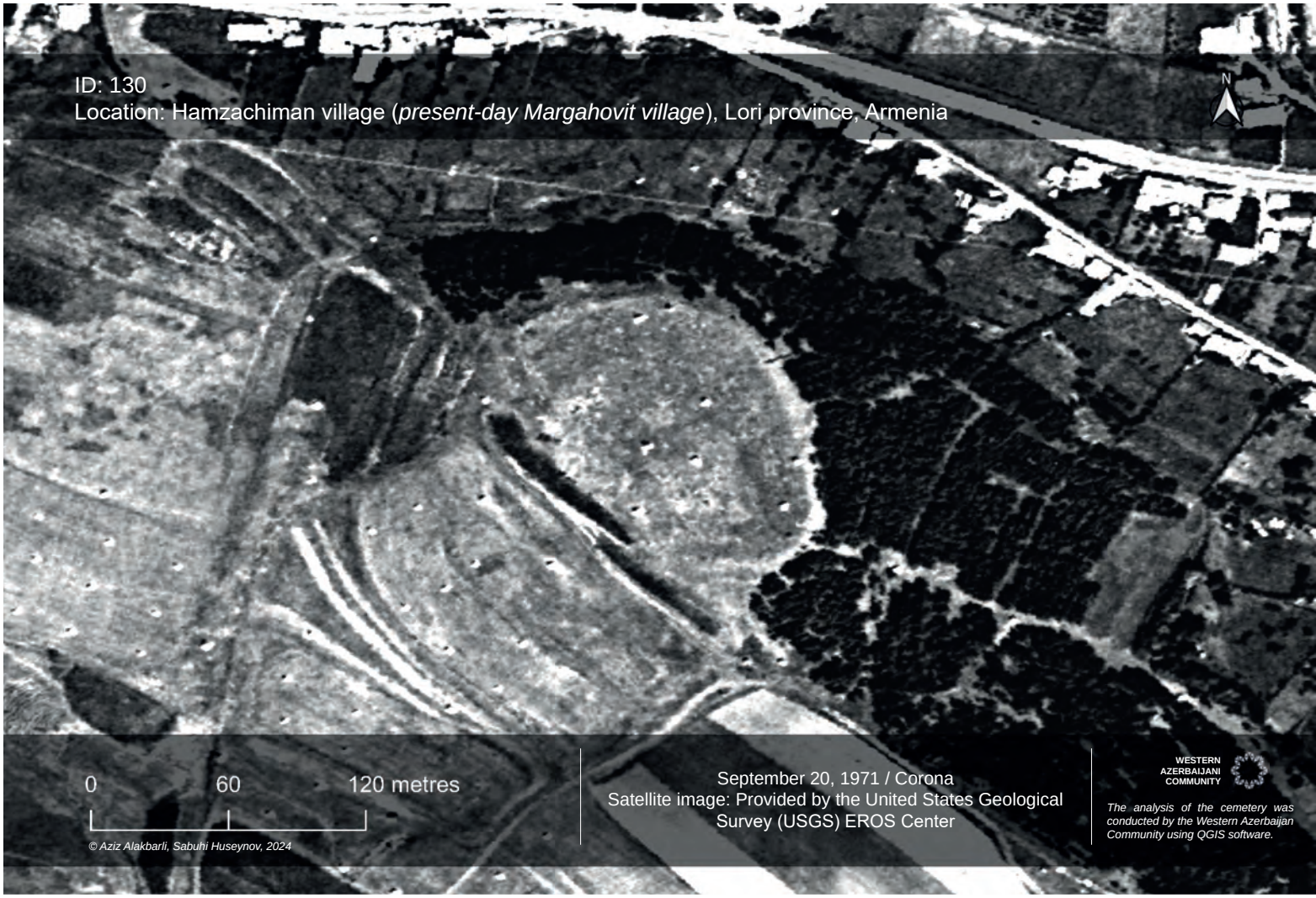
The WorldView-2 satellite imagery[2] showed that the cemetery remained unchanged as of July 5, 2010. The same heterogeneous surface pattern observed in the Corona imagery was also visible in the WorldView-2 image. In the Airbus satellite imagery dated October 23, 2023,[3] it was determined that earthmoving had been carried out in the areas outlined in red within the cemetery site. This area had previously served as the excavation site of an archaeological expedition conducted by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Armenian Academy of Sciences from 2011 to 2014 and from 2016 to 2017. In their 2017 report, Armenian archaeologists acknowledged that, during excavations conducted in Sector IVb of the site, they had uncovered a medieval Muslim cemetery.[4] Thus, the region's 16th-century Muslim cemetery was destroyed in the course of archaeological excavations carried out between 2011 and 2017.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated on a hill in the eastern part of the village, approximately 150 meters northeast of the modern Armenian cemetery. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1926 (scale 1:210,000)[5], 1928 (1:210,000)[6], 1931 (1:42,000)[7], 1933 (1:210,000)[8], 1936 (1:210,000)[9], 1940 (1:210,000)[10], and 1941 (1:210,000)[11]. It does not appear on subsequent maps. Using the coordinates from the 1933 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Corona, DS1115-2154AFT*, September 20, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
2. *WorldView-2*, July 05, 2010. Maxar via Esri Map.
3. October 23, 2023. Airbus via Google Earth.
4. Gevorgyan, Aram, Arsen Bobokhyan, Harutyun Vanyan, and Henrik Danielyan. "Archaeological Works in Margahovit." In *Metsamorian Readings*, I. Yerevan, 2017, 7.
5. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
6. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1928.
7. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-34 (*Bozik'iant*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
8. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, E.8 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1933.
9. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, E.8 (*Erivan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1936.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab RKKA, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1940.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoĭ Armii, E.8 (Yerevan) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.


ID: 130
Location: Hamzachiman village (*present-day Margahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 130
Location: Hamzachiman village (*present-day Margahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 5, 2010/ WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 130
Location: Hamzachiman village (present-day Margahovit village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1928

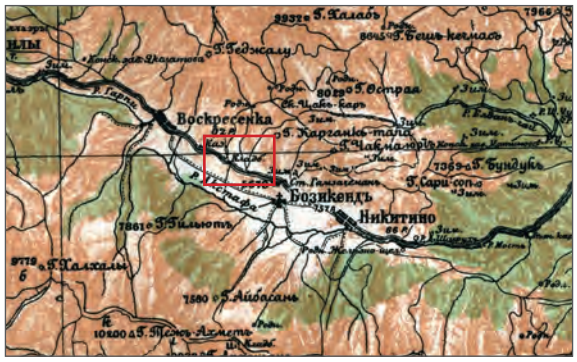
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1928 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

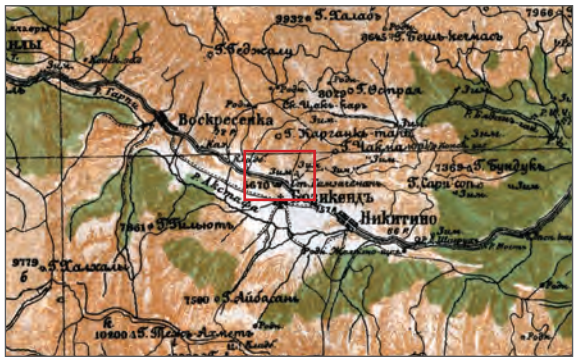
1933

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1936

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1936 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

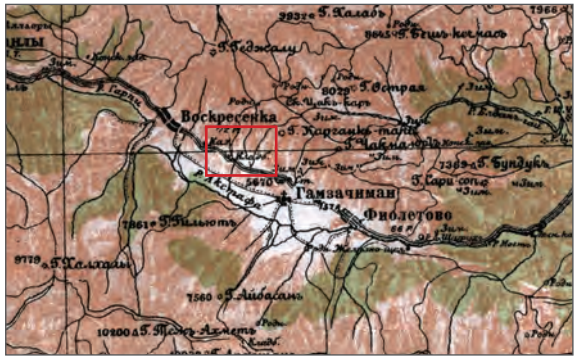


1940

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1941

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

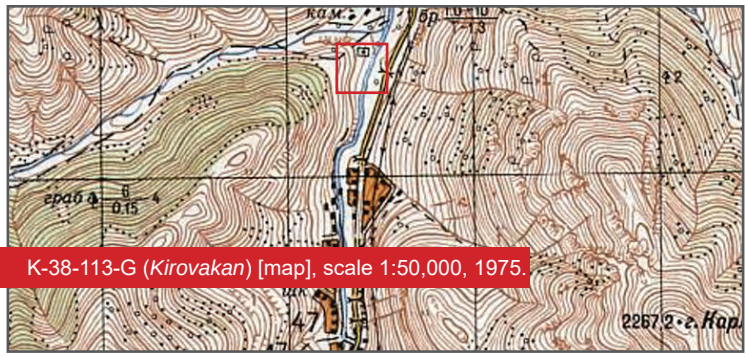


From 1989 to 2005

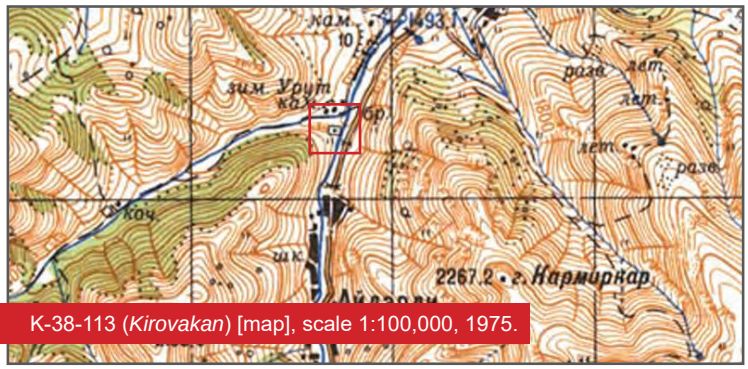
Status: OBLITERATED

Heydarli Village Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Heydarli village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Tsaghkots village (Armenian)
ID: 122 [MC-126], 40.798279, 44.376389



K-38-113-G (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.



K-38-113 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

Heydarli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located on the banks of the Hallavar and Boyuk-su rivers. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). Records indicate that 1,328 Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) lived in the village in 1919.[2]

In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[3] In 1921, 298 Azerbaijanis returned, rebuilt the village, and resettled.[4] However, even after 1921, acts of aggression against the population of the village continued, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism. In 1949, 448 residents of the village were deported to the Saatli district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 700 Azerbaijani residents of Heydarli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] Heydarli village was renamed Tsaghkots in 2009.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

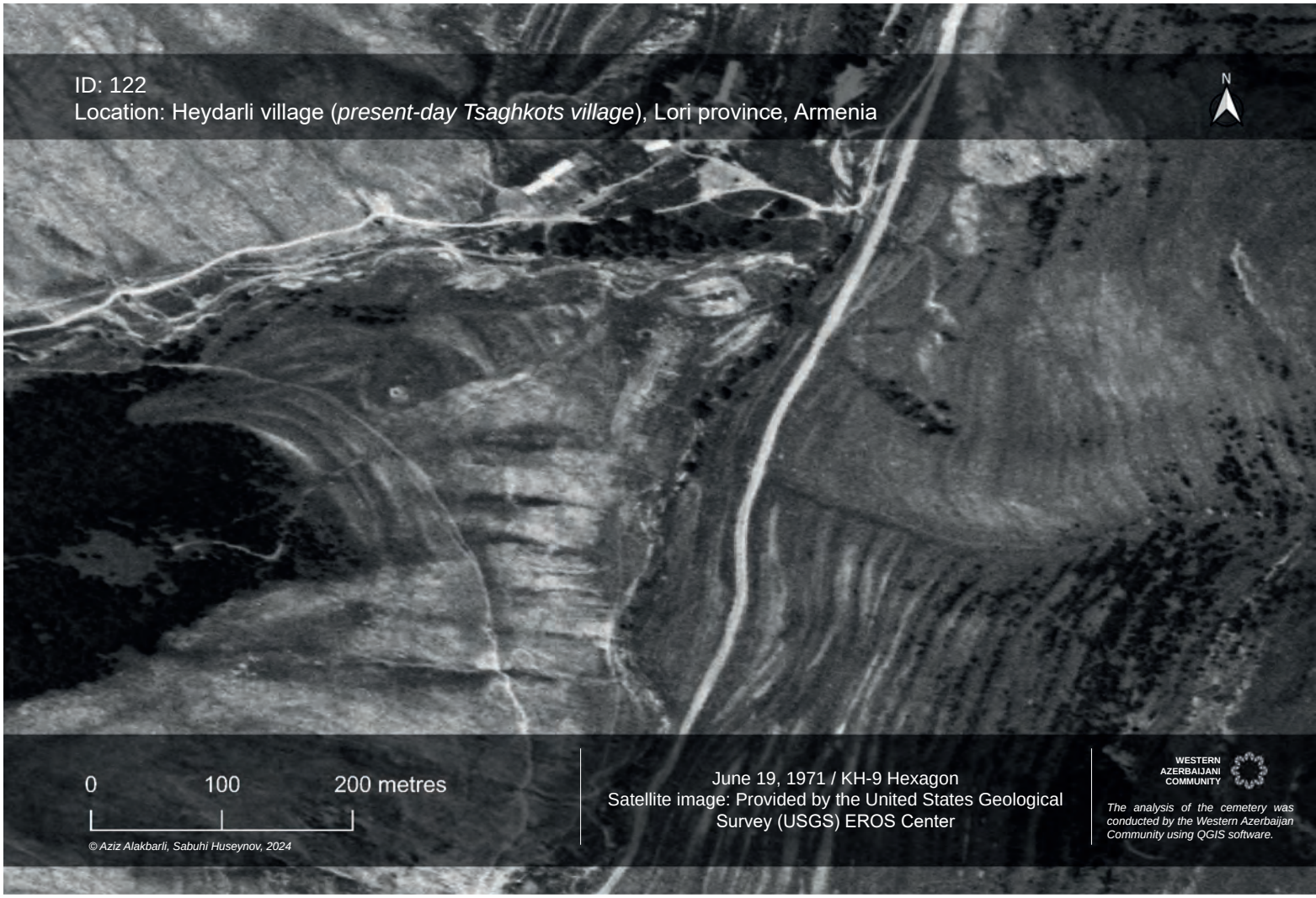
A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 29, 2005[8] (ORBVIEW-3) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2005. By this time, the entire village and its cemetery had been subjected to looting. Clear traces on the cemetery grounds, such as visible furrows, leveling of the terrain, and signs of agricultural and grazing use, demonstrate that the area was repurposed.

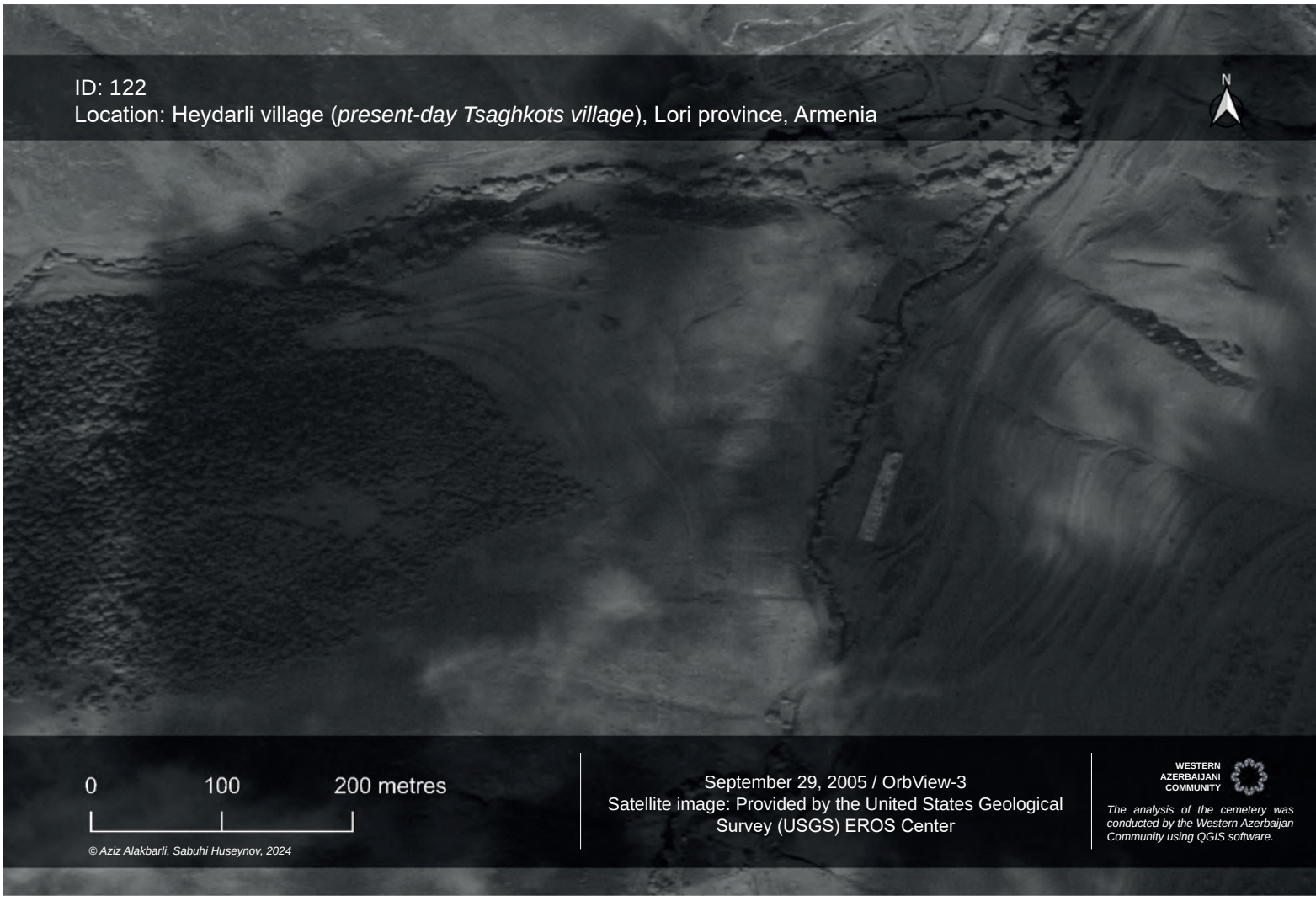
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on the left side of the road leading to the village of Hallavar, at the foot of an elevated area. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000[9] and 1:100,000[10] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Tiflis äyalätinin mufässäl däftäri: Borchalï vä Qazakh (1728),* pref., trans., and comm. by Shahin. Mustafayev, 2nd ed. (Baku: Elm, 2022), 34.
2. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 130-131.
3. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-coghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 139.
4. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 130-131.
5. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 376.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 139.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *ORBVIEW-3,3V050929P0000923231A520000100272M_001630752*, September 29, 2005, (GeoEye Inc.), USGS EROS Data Center.
9. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113-G (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
10. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 122
Location: Heydarli village (*present-day Tsaghkots village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 122
Location: Heydarli village (*present-day Tsaghkots village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 29, 2005 / OrbView-3
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 2002 to 2023

Status: DESTROYED

Khanjighaz Village New Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Khanjighaz village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Aznvadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 153 [MC-127], 40.881280, 44.426351

Khanjighaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located at the foot of Bozabdal mountain, on the left bank of the Pambak river. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. The village was also known as Ibrahimli. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 650 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

Between 1918 and 1921, Armenian armed groups carried out seven massacres targeting the population of the village of Khanjighaz.[2] In the spring of 1918, the village came under attack by Armenian forces. Following the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, the population returned to the village. However, in the autumn of 1918, after the withdrawal of Ottoman forces from the area, the residents of Khanjighaz were once again forced to flee in order to escape Armenian aggression, seeking refuge in the village of Garakhan, located in the Shorayel district of the Kars province, *Kars uezd*. In February 1920, Garakhan village also came under attack by Armenian forces. During this attack, a massacre was committed not only against the local population but also against the displaced people of Khanjighaz, and their property was looted.[3] In 1921, 712 Azerbaijanis returned to Khanjighaz, restored the village, and resettled.[4] However, even after 1921, acts of aggression against the population of the village continued, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated June 1, 1940, the village of Khanjighaz was renamed Gozaldere.[6] In 1949, 24 residents of the village were deported to the Khanlar district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 1,200 Azerbaijani residents of Khanjighaz village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gozaldere village was renamed Aznvadzor.[9]

According to the authors, the new cemetery located to the north of Khanjighaz was established during the Soviet period, while the old cemetery was located to the south of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[10] (at right, top left) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, identifying it as an area of 1 hectare, with a heterogeneous, patchy surface. Larger tombstones were visible in the central and eastern parts of the site. The cemetery was fenced and well-preserved.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2002[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis confirmed that as of 2002, tombstones were still identifiable across the entire cemetery area. It was observed that the central part of the area was used as a road extending to the north. In that area, several tombstone fragments were identified.

A subsequent comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2002 (QuickBird-2) and 2023[12] (Airbus) revealed the presence of more than 100 headstone shadows in the northeastern and northwestern sections of the cemetery. Photographic evidence confirmed that headstones of grave monuments were still standing. However, signs of destruction were evident in the southern part of the cemetery, particularly near its entrance. This cemetery may be considered one of the few Azerbaijani cemeteries within the present-day territory of the Republic of Armenia to have survived into the present with comparatively limited damage and fewer instances of vandalism.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located at the northern edge of the village, at the foot of a hill. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000[13] and 1:100,000[14] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 195.
2. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 149.
3. Nazim Mustafa, *Irävan quberniyasïnda azärbaycanlïlarïn soyqïrïmï (1918-1920)* (Baku:Elm, 2017), 35.
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 130-131.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da,* IV. cilt, 149.
6. *Armianskaia SSR: Administrativno-territorial'noe delenie na 1-e marta 1964 goda.* 3rd ed. (Yerevan: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo Armenii, 1964), 198.
7. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 376.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 143.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2002, Maxar.
12. June 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113-B (Giulagark) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 153
Location: Khanjighaz village (*present-day Aznvadzor village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

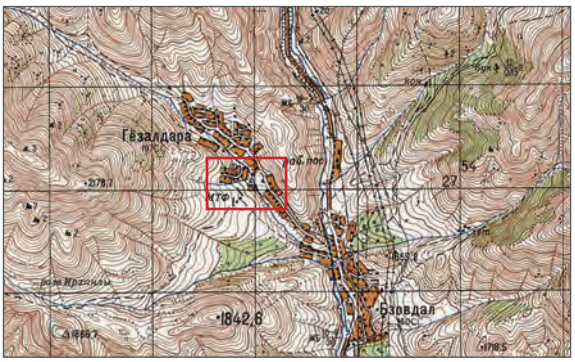
ID: 153
Location: Khanjighaz village (*present-day Aznvadzor village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 153
Location: Khanjighaz village (*present-day Aznvadzor village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

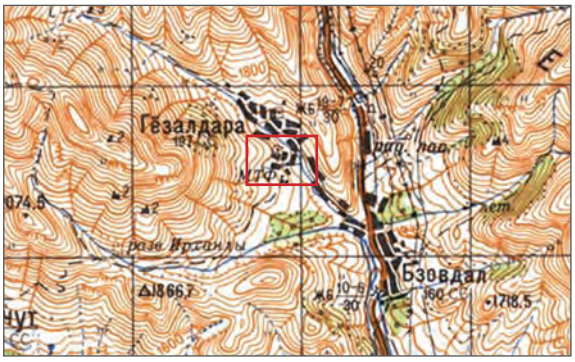
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Artak Mirzoyan, 2014

© Shushanik Isahakyan, 2020

© Still frames from video footage shared by Nabi Nazaraliyev on his social media profile in 2015

From 1989 to 2002

Status: OBLITERATED

Khanjighaz Village Old Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Khanjighaz village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Aznvadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 154 [MC-395], 40.877541, 44.426856

Khanjighaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region (incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930; Kirovakan on January 3, 1935; and Gugark in 1964), located at the foot of Bozabdal mountain, on the left bank of the Pambak river. The village was also known as Ibrahimli. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 650 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

Between 1918 and 1921, Armenian armed groups carried out seven massacres targeting the population of the village of Khanjighaz.[2] In the spring of 1918, the village came under attack by Armenian forces. Following the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, the population returned to the village. However, in the autumn of 1918, after the withdrawal of Ottoman forces from the area, the residents of Khanjighaz were once again forced to flee in order to escape Armenian aggression, seeking refuge in the village of Garakhan, located in the Shorayel district of the Kars province, *Kars uezd*. In February 1920, Garakhan village also came under attack by Armenian forces. During this attack, a massacre was committed not only against the local population but also against the displaced people of Khanjighaz, and their property was looted.[3] In 1921, 712 Azerbaijanis returned to Khanjighaz, restored the village, and resettled.[4] However, even after 1921, acts of aggression against the population of the village continued, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated June 1, 1940, the village of Khanjighaz was renamed Gozaldere.[6] In 1949, 24 residents of the village were deported to the Khanlar district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 1,200 Azerbaijani residents of Khanjighaz village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gozaldere village was renamed Aznvadzor.[9]

According to the authors, the old cemetery located to the south of the village was used prior to the massacre committed by Armenians in 1918, as well as for the burial of those killed during the massacre. The new cemetery was established during the Soviet period.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[10] (at right, top left) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, identifying it as an area of 0.5 hectares, with a heterogeneous, patchy surface. Such a surface pattern is typically formed by partially sunken grave slabs of older cemeteries in the region. The cemetery area was bordered to the west by residential yard plots and to the east by the village road.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 10, 2002[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that by 2002, the entire cemetery area had been completely obliterated. Bulldozers had been used to carry out earthmoving operations; all tombstones were demolished, the area was leveled, and the land was subsequently repurposed. The authors, based on an analysis of the area's dense vegetation growth, suggest that the destruction process likely took place during the 1990s.

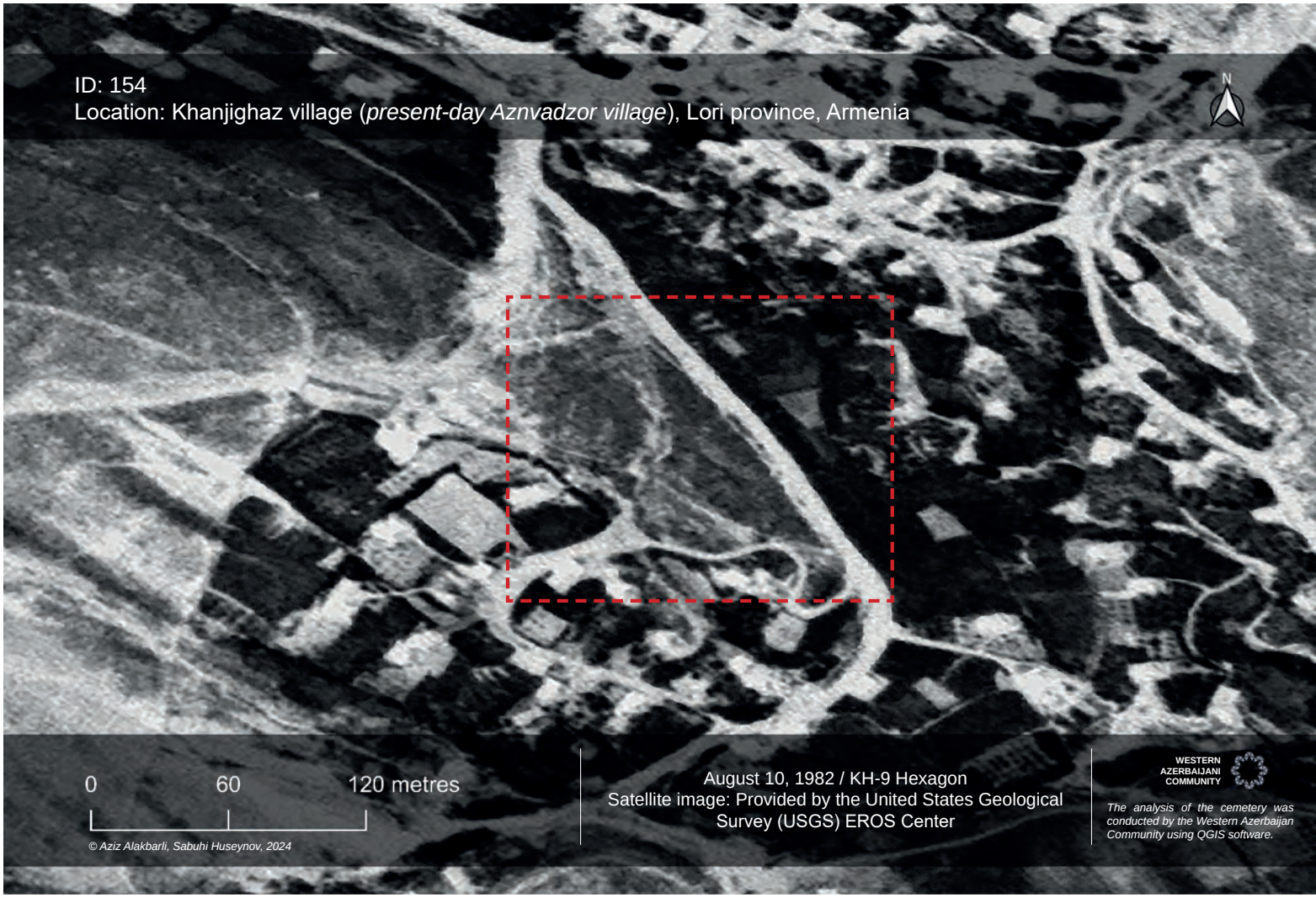
A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2002 (QuickBird-2) and 2023[12] (Airbus) indicates that the former cemetery site had begun to be incorporated into the yard plots of nearby residential houses. In the western section of the site, a large structure was identified as having been built by 2023.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located on the southern edge of the village, at the foot of a hill. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000[13] and 1:100,000[14] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 195.
2. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 149.
3. Nazim Mustafa, *Irävan quberniyasïnda azärbayjanlïlarïn soyqïrïmï (1918-1920)* (Baku:Elm, 2017), 35.
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 130-131.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da,* IV. cilt, 149.
6. *Armianskaia SSR: Administrativno-territorial'noe delenie na 1-e marta 1964 goda.* 3rd ed. (Yerevan: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo Armenii, 1964), 198.
7. *Azärbayjanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 376.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 143.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, August 10, 2002, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. June 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113-B (Giulagark) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-113 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 154
Location: Khanjighaz village (*present-day Aznvadzor village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

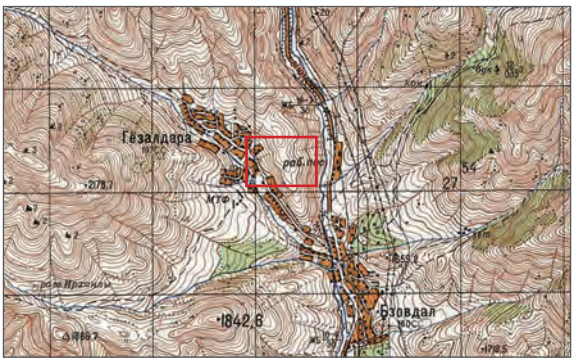
ID: 154
Location: Khanjighaz village (*present-day Aznvadzor village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2002 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 154
Location: Khanjighaz village (*present-day Aznvadzor village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

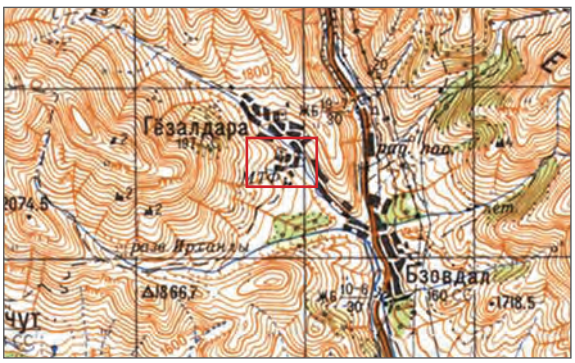
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

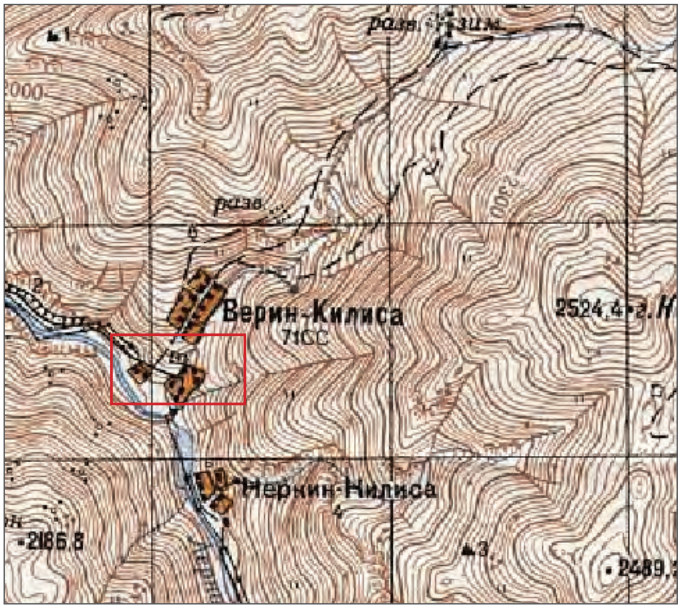
© Artak Mirzoyan, 2014

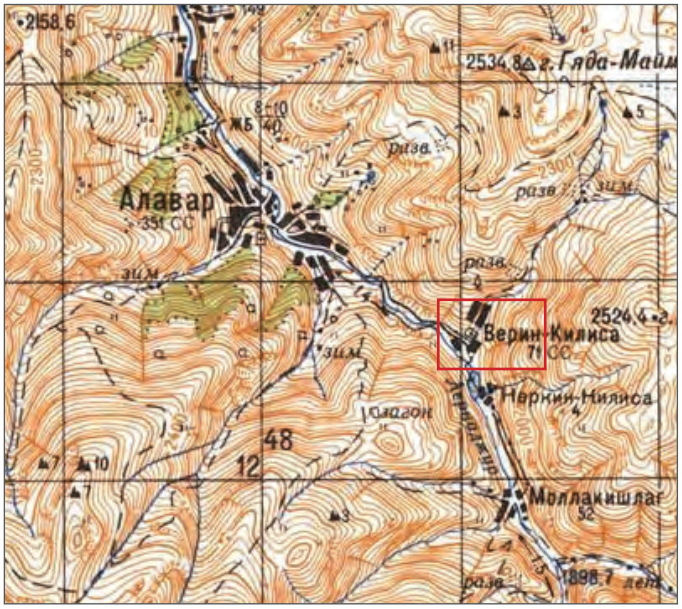
From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Kilsa Village Cemetery

Location: Boyuk Garakilsa district, Yukhari Kilsa village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Kilisa village (Armenian)
ID: 173 [MC-125], 40.753690, 44.407971





Yukhari Kilsa was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located southwest of Hallavar village, on the site of an ancient winter pasture. It was incorporated into Boyuk Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, Kirovakan district on January 3, 1935, and Gugark district in 1964. Statistical records refer to the village as early as 1922.[1] Its alternate name was Dizman.[2]

During the Soviet period, the word "Yukhari" (Upper) in the village's name was translated into Armenian, and the village was renamed Verin-Kilisa. In 1949, 154 residents of the village were deported to the Saatli district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[3] However, unable to endure the region's hot climate, the population eventually returned to their native village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, over 1,200 Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Kilsa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[4]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[5] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing that it spanned an area of 0.5 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. It was located on a slope to the right of the road at the entrance to the village of Yukhari Kilsa.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and February 9, 2007[6] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that by 2007, the entire cemetery area had been completely obliterated. The tombstones were demolished, and shattered remnants were scattered across the site. In the northern section, remnants of several tombstones were still visible.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 and 2023[7] (Airbus) confirmed the complete obliteration of the cemetery site. The destruction of the Yukhari Kilsa village cemetery coincided with the looting of village houses, indicating that both actions were deliberate and formed part of a coordinated campaign of eradication of both.

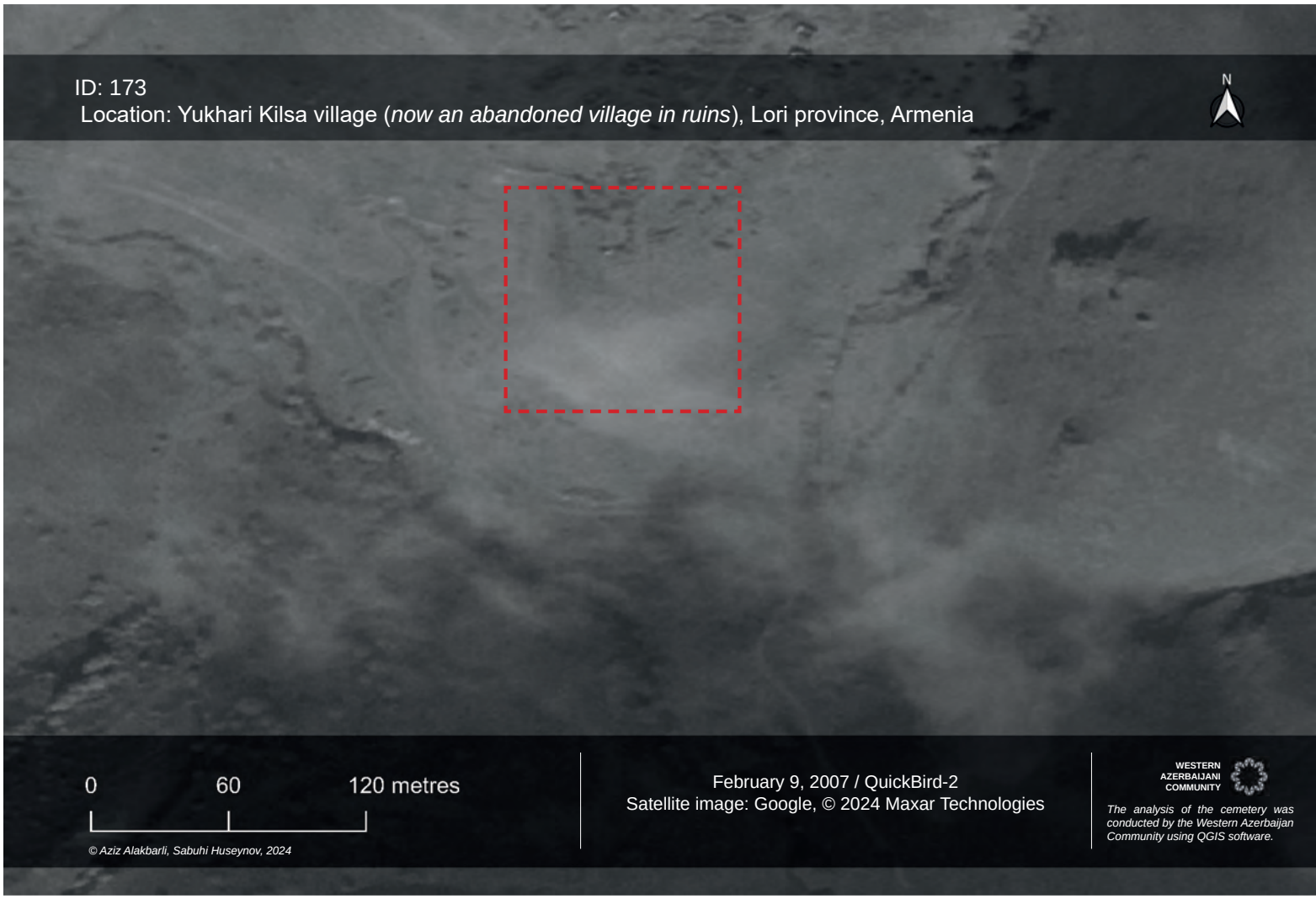
GEOLOCATION:

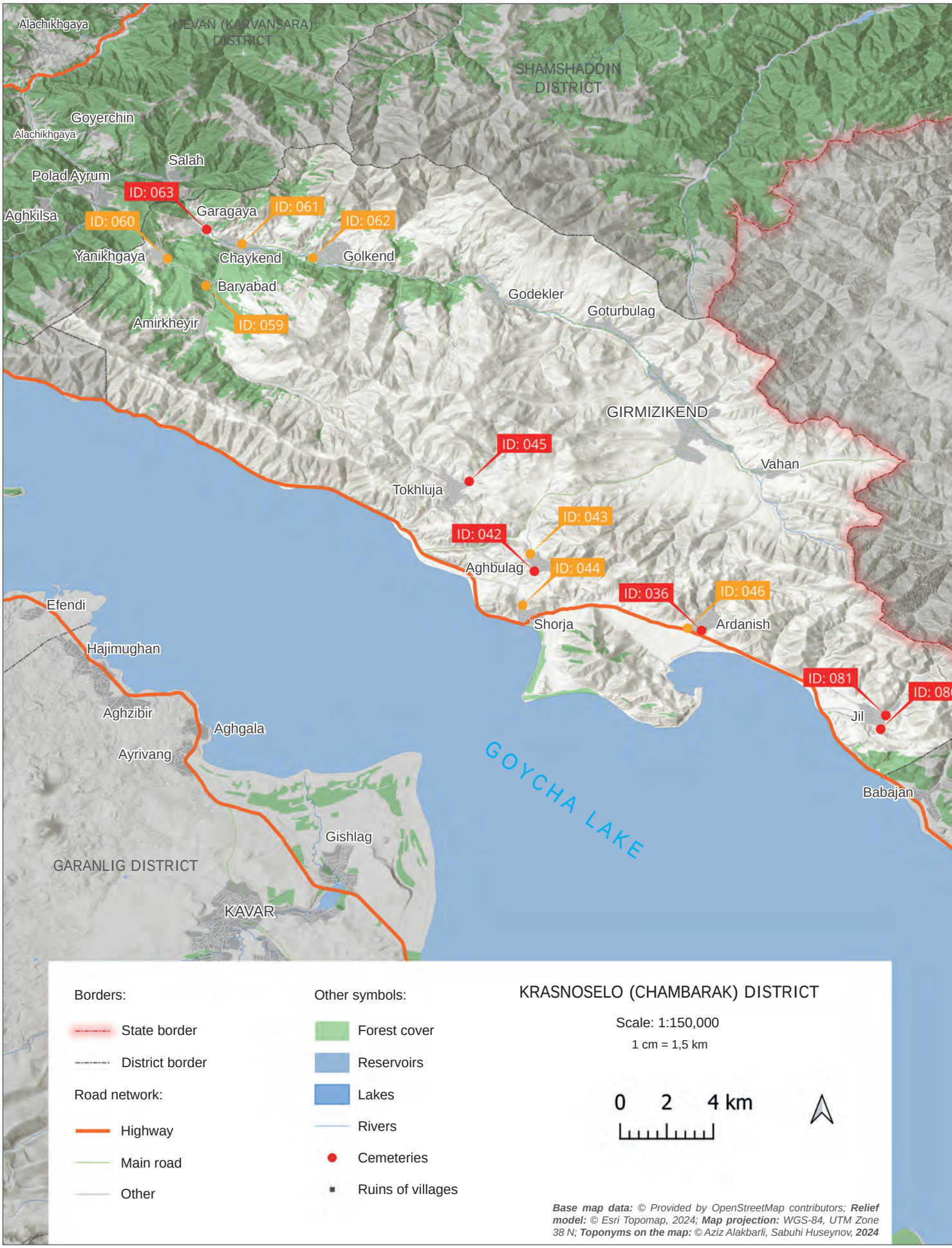
The cemetery was situated at the entrance to the village, starting from the second incline along road leading up to the village, in an area lying to the south of the road and extending northward. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000[8] and 1:100,000[9] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 132-133.
2. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 140.
3. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 376.
4. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi Azärbaycanlilarin 1988-ji il soyqirimi*, 140.
5. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
6. February 09, 2007, Maxar via Google Earth.
7. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Esri Map.
8. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-113-G (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-113 (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 173
Location: Yukhari Kilsa village (*now an abandoned village in ruins*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 173
Location: Yukhari Kilsa village (*now an abandoned village in ruins*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 9, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


Alachikhgaya
IJEVAN (KARVANSARA) DISTRICT
SHAMSHADDIN DISTRICT
Goyerchin
Alachikhgaya
Salah
Polad Ayrum
ID: 063
Garagaya
ID: 061
ID: 062
Aghkilsa
ID: 060
Yanikhgaya
Chaykend
Golkend
Baryabad
Godekler
Goturbulag
Amirkheyir
ID: 059
GIRMIZIKEND
ID: 045
Vahan
Tokhluja
ID: 043
ID: 042
Aghbulag
ID: 044
ID: 036
ID: 046
Efendi
Shorja
Ardanish
Hajimughan
ID: 081
Aghzibir
Aghgala
Jil
Ayrivang
GOYCHA LAKE
Babajan
Gishlag
GARANLIG DISTRICT
KAVAR
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
KRASNOSELO (CHAMBARAK) DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

KRASNOSELO (CHAMBARAK) DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Goycha *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Krasnoselo district.
Establishment date: December 31, 1937.
Area: 697 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Girmizikend (*formerly known as Mikhaylovka and Krasnoselsk, A.A., S.H.*), located 125 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1970 data, the district included one urban-type settlement, 13 village councils, and 20 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 26,300.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Jil, Ardanish, Shorja, Tokhluja, Golkend, Chaykend, Amirkheyir, Baryabad, Yanigpaya, Aghbulag, Jivikhli, Garagaya, Girmizikend and Rubenakert.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Gegharkunik province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2012

Status: DESTROYED

Aghbulag Village Old Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Aghbulag village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Aghberk village (Armenian)
ID: 043 [MC-434], 40.5331812, 45.2748506

Aghbulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located 4 km north of Lake Goycha, at the foot of the Shahdagh range. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,134 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In late April 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Aghbulag within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 1,053 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. From November 24 to 28, 1988, over 1,800 Azerbaijani residents of Aghbulag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Aghbulag village was renamed Aghberk.[8]

The old Muslim cemetery in Aghbulag village was located along the road leading into the village from the direction of Girmizikend.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

In 2019, Armenian researcher Raffi Kortoshian reported the presence of 20 epigraphic inscriptions in Arabic script in a historical Muslim cemetery located in the northwestern part of the village. Kortoshian published eight of these inscriptions—along with photographs—in Arabic, English, and Armenian, noting that the epitaphs date from 1894 to 1936. He referred to this cemetery as an ancient Turkic cemetery, while calling the village's other Muslim burial ground (*referring to the Chakhmagli cemetery – A.A., S.H.*) an Azerbaijani cemetery, claiming that the Turkic cemetery had survived undisturbed to the present day.[10]

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[11] (*at right, top*) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The old cemetery was identified across an area of **1.1 hectares**, with tombstones visible in the central and eastern parts, and a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern observed in other sections.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and 2012[12] (WorldView-2) (*at right, bottom*) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, three large tombstones or structures visible at the center of the cemetery in the Hexagon imagery were found to have already been destroyed. The tombstones visible in the northern section have disappeared.

Thus, following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, destruction was carried out in the cemetery, and a portion of it—most likely containing older tombstones with key historical information—was demolished. As the authors possess imagery confirming the existence of *8 tombstones* as of 2019 (*Images Nos. 1-5*), the cemetery has been assessed as destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located on a high hill northwest of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1990 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 41.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 83.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Letter from Ganja General-Governor Vekilov to the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, April 24, 1919, ARDA, f. 894, op. 4, d. 84.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qädim Turk–Oghuz yurdu "Ermänistan"*, (Baku: Sabah, 1994), 172-177.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
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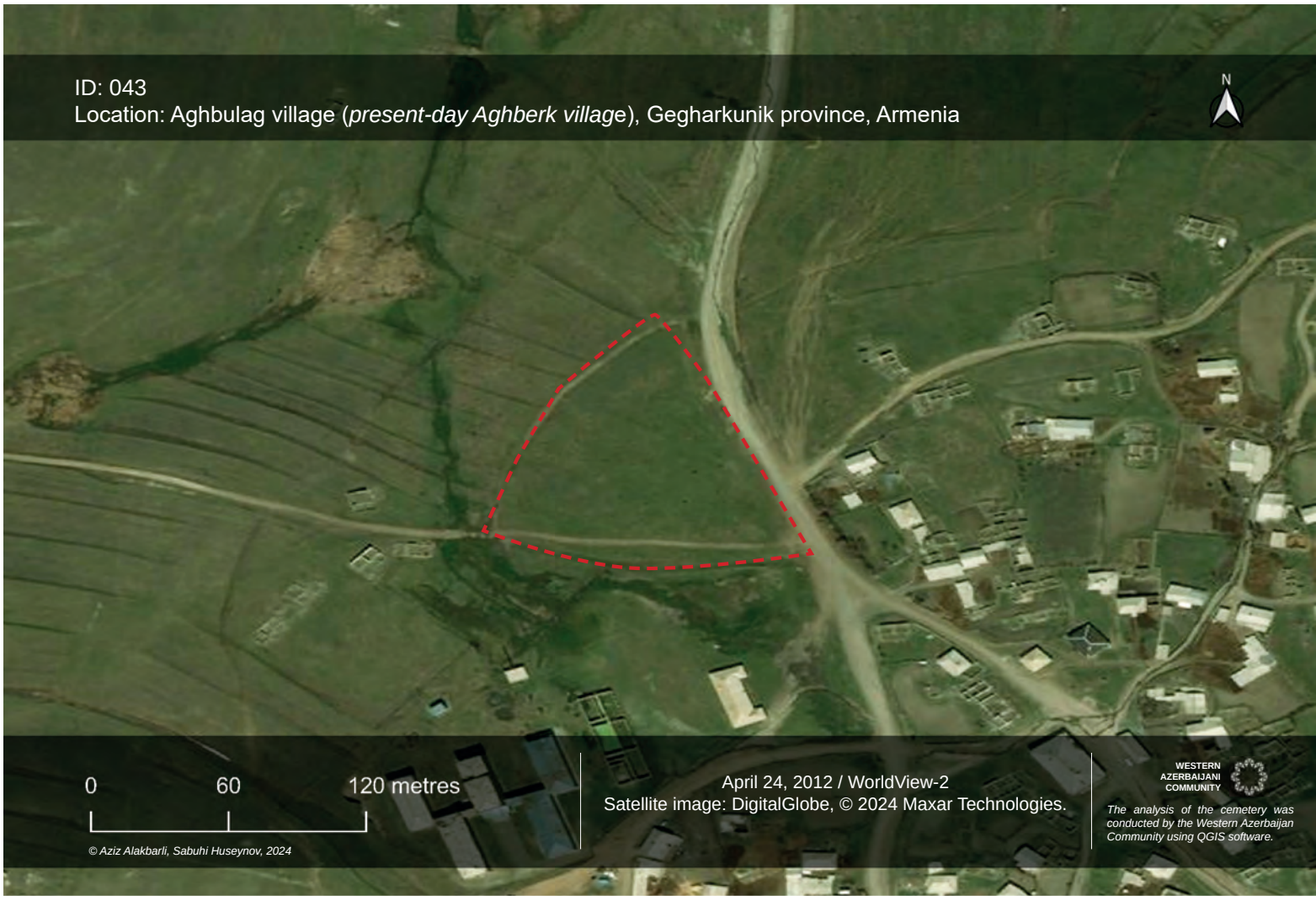
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *WordlView-2*, April 24, 2012, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, *K-38-127-B (Krasnosel'sk)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, *K-38-127 (Kamo)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.

ID: 043
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 043
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 24, 2012 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: DigitalGlobe, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

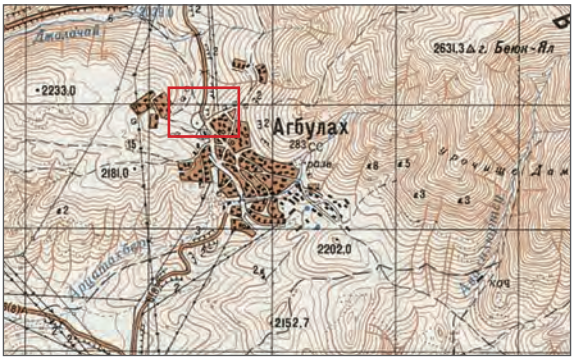
ID: 043
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 30, 2023 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: DigitalGlobe, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijani Community using QGIS software.

ID: 043
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 9, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijani Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

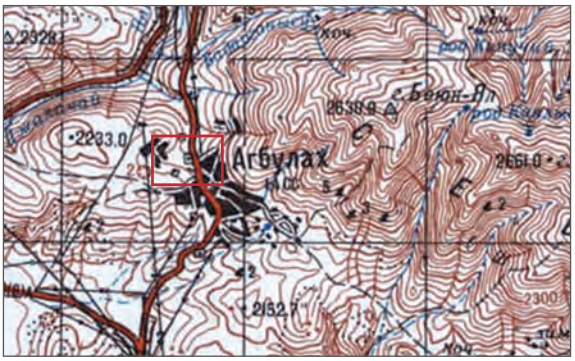
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

© Raffi Kortoshian, 2019

From 1989 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Ardanish Village Old Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Ardanish village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Artanish village (Armenian)
ID: 036 [MC-356], 40.494528, 45.361167

Ardanish was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, west of the Jil village, on the bank of the Ardanish river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,209 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In late April 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Ardanish within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 1,138 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, about 2,300 Azerbaijani residents of Ardanish village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

In Ardanish village, there was an old cemetery behind Chaldagh mountain that the local population used until a new cemetery was established in the 1960s.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[9] (at right, top left) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The old cemetery was identified across a 0.54-hectare area, characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern. Since the 1960s, the Azerbaijani residents of the village began conducting burials in the new cemetery, located near the Chaldagh mountain.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2021[10] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings revealed that the cemetery site had been completely obliterated by 2021.

Due to the unavailability of high-resolution satellite imagery, it was not possible to narrow down the exact timeframe of the destruction. Therefore, the authors sought to estimate the likely period of destruction by examining the NDVI values of the area. An analysis of NDVI values for the area during the months of May, June, and July from 1989 to 2003 revealed a significant decline in vegetation cover in 1999, with values dropping to 0.2, followed by a subsequent increase. The authors believe that the cemetery was likely destroyed in 1999 during certain events involving earth-moving and activities that affected vegetation, possibly during the construction of a dirt road and subsequent land clearing operations.

The subsequent condition of the cemetery was assessed through a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2021 and imagery captured on November 2, 2023[11] (Airbus). This analysis confirmed that the cemetery had been completely obliterated between 2021 and 2023.

Photographs from 2020 depicting the current condition of the area further demonstrate that no tombstones remain, and stone debris is scattered across the site (Images Nos. 1-4).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the southern part of the village, on the eastern bank of the Aghsu river. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 62.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 90.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Letter from Ganja General-Governor Vekilov to the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, April 24, 1919, ARDA, f. 894, op. 4, d. 84.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 282.
8. The information was provided by the Western Azerbaijan Community.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A013*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. November 02, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, *K-38-127-G (Artanish)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 036
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 036
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 036
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 2, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

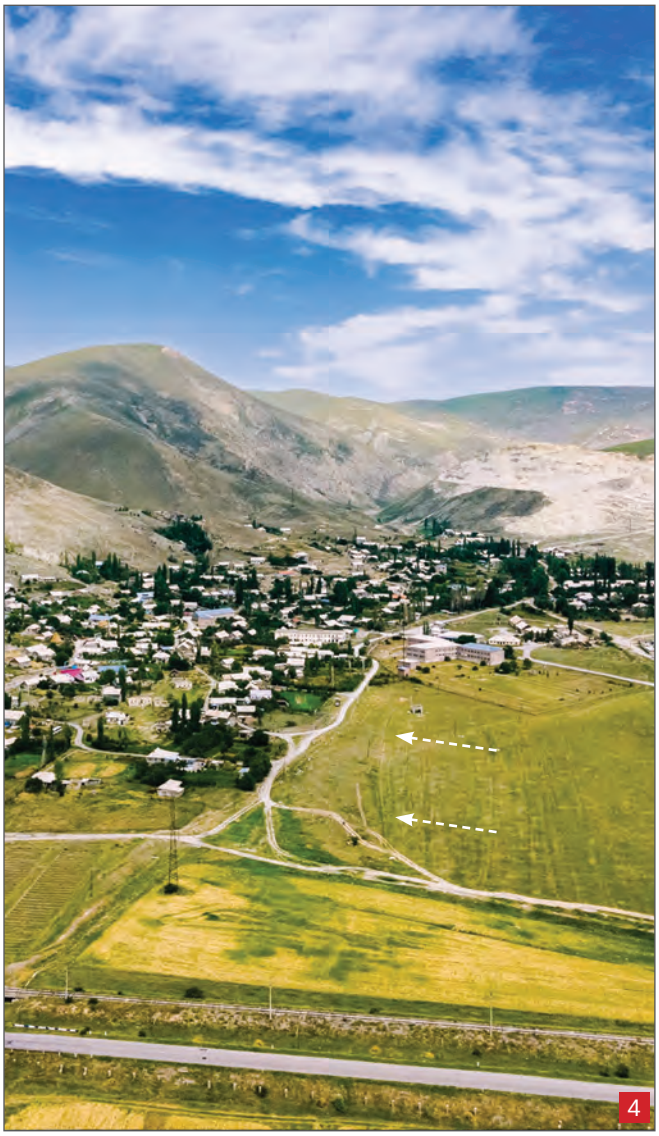
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Soghomon Matevosyan, 2019



© Gor Elchyan, 2020

From 1989 to 2012

Status: DESTROYED

Ardanish Village New Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Ardanish village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Artanish village (Armenian)
ID: 046 [MC-062], 40.4956833, 45.3542001

Ardanish was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, west of the Jil village, on the bank of the Ardanish river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,209 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In late April 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Ardanish within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 1,138 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, about 2,300 Azerbaijani residents of Ardanish village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

In Ardanish village, a new cemetery was established behind Chaldagh mountain in the 1960s. This cemetery housed four mausoleums commemorating village residents Molla Karam, Ismayil Huseynov, Alashraf Akhundov, and, most recently, Molla Ali Isgandar.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The old cemetery was identified across a 1-hectare area, characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern. Due to the limited resolution of available imagery, two areas were identified where the mausoleums are presumed to have been located. A Soviet-era photograph depicts two mausoleums in the northeastern part of the cemetery. This photograph further corroborates the locations of the mausoleums.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and April 24, 2012[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings revealed extensive destruction within the cemetery site. As of late 1988, according to Hexagon satellite imagery, the village's new cemetery covered approximately 1 hectare; it was subsequently expanded by the Azerbaijani population to 1.7 hectares.

Satellite imagery dated 2012 confirmed the complete destruction of all four mausoleums, with only partial remnants of the Mausoleum of Molla Ali Isgandar located in the eastern section still visible. A photograph of this mausoleum also confirmed the destruction detected through satellite imagery (Image No.5).

The subsequent condition of the cemetery was assessed through a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2012 (WorldView-2) and 2023[11] (Airbus). Analysis of the latter imagery identified the shadows of more than 70 headstones across the cemetery. However, the construction of a dirt road through the northern and southern sections of the site has resulted in the destruction of numerous graves.

Photographic documentation of the site's current condition reveals clear signs of vandalism: the portraits of the deceased have been scratched off from all headstones. Both grave slabs and headstones were broken, with fragments scattered across the area (Images Nos. 3-4). All tombstones made of black marble were dismantled and removed.

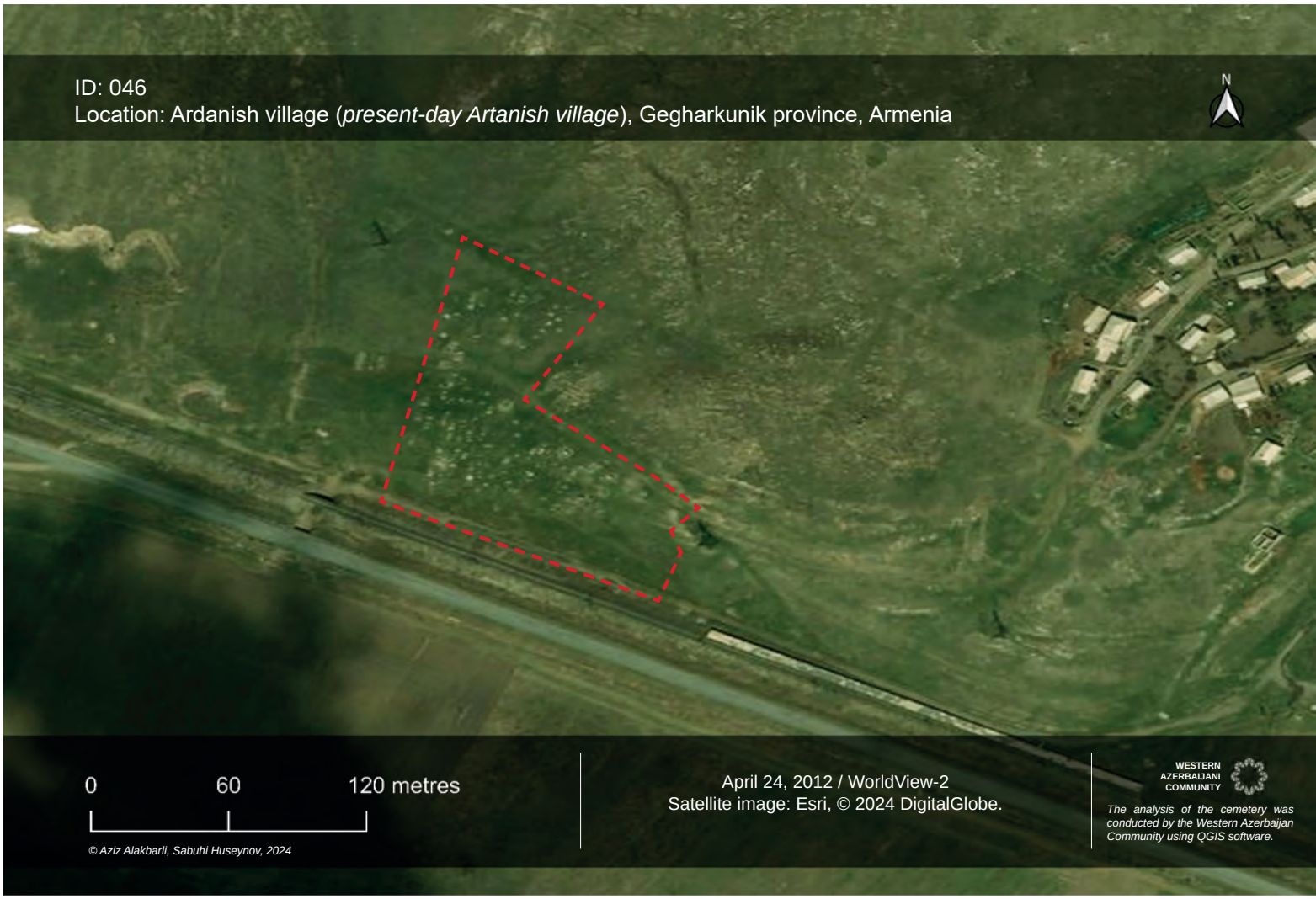
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the southern part of the village, north of the railway line. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 62.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 90.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Letter from Ganja General-Governor Vekilov to the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, April 24, 1919, ARDA, f. 894, op. 4, d. 84.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 282.
8. The information was provided by the Western Azerbaijan Community.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A013*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, April 24, 2012, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. November 02, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyï Shtab, *K-38-127-G (Artanish)* [map], 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 046
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 046
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 24, 2012 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 046
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Bing, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 046
Location: Ardanish village (*present-day Artanish village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 2, 2023
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

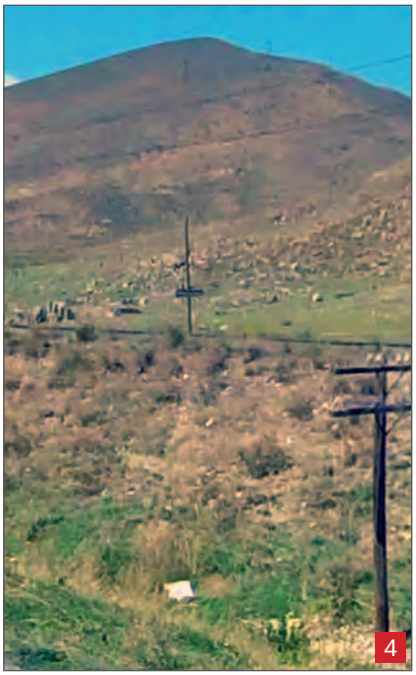
SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

3


4

5

From 1989 to 2007

Status: DESTROYED

Baryabad Village Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Baryabad village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Barepat village (Armenian)
ID: 059 [MC-116], 40.668480, 45.1112378

Baryabad was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Garagoyunlu valley. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Statistical records first mentioned the village in 1919.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In February and March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Baryabad within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 85 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 250 Azerbaijani residents of Baryabad village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Baryabad village was renamed Barepat.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 1.1-hectare enclosed area. The dense vegetation in the western and central sections of the cemetery obscured visibility, making it impossible to identify tombstones.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated August 29, 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[9] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings revealed extensive destruction within the cemetery site. In the northern section, traces of deep trenches and signs of earth-moving activities were visible. Recent video and photographic recordings indicate that the tombstones in the southern part of the cemetery have remained intact.[10] The most recent photographic documentation was carried out by blogger Gurdeep Mattu. These images confirm incidents of vandalism, showing that some tombstones have been broken; however, a significant number of tombstones within the cemetery remain intact (Images Nos. 1-8).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the northwestern part of the village, on elevated terrain. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-coghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi väsakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 39.
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5. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 114-115.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 291.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *Spot 5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
10. July 06, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
11. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 059
Location: Baryabad village (*present-day Barepat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

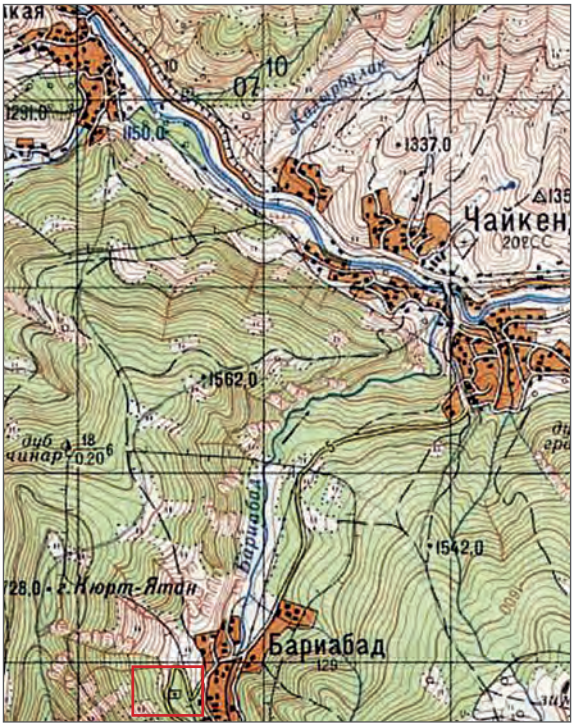
ID: 059
Location: Baryabad village (*present-day Barepat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus DS.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 059
Location: Baryabad village (*present-day Barepat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2022

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Chakhmagli Cemetery of Aghbulag Village

Location: Krasnoselo district, Aghbulag village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Aghberk village (Armenian)
ID: 042 [MC-063], 40.5244418, 45.2769153

Aghbulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located 4 km north of Lake Goycha, at the foot of the Shahdagh range. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,134 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In late April 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Aghbulag within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 1,053 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. From November 24 to 28, 1988, over 1,800 Azerbaijani residents of Aghbulag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Aghbulag village was renamed Aghberk.[8]

There were three Muslim cemeteries in the village. The first was located at the 6th kilometer of the Girmizikend–Iravan road, atop an incline known as Darama. This cemetery, traditionally used by nomadic communities, served as the burial site for residents of Tovuz and Gazakh during the summer pasture season. The second cemetery was situated along the road leading into Aghbulag village from the direction of Girmizikend. The final and most recent cemetery of Aghbulag village was the Chakhmagli Cemetery, located on a hill to the south of the village, on the left side of the road, facing Shorja village. The cemetery housed the mausoleum of Mirali Agha and Miryagub Agha, which was held in great reverence and frequently visited by Azerbaijani residents from across the entire district.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery. The Chakhmagli cemetery was identified at the entrance to the village, on the right side of the road, covering an area of 1.5 hectares and containing tombstones along with a mausoleum. The Hexagon imagery also revealed the fences constructed under the direction of Mammadali Abbasaliyev, who had served as the head of the village kolkhoz. The mausoleum of Mirali Agha and Miryagub Agha was located in the northeastern section of the cemetery, while the entrance to the cemetery was from the north.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon), January 17, 2007[11] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom) and 2012[12] (WorldView-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Although signs of destruction were visible in the 2007 satellite image, its resolution was insufficient for a detailed analysis. Therefore, the primary assessment of the damage was based on the 2012 image. Between 1989 and 2007, the perimeter wall of Chakhmagli cemetery was destroyed, the mausoleum was demolished, and earthmoving operations were carried out across an area of 503 square meters. Despite this destruction, the 2023[13] satellite imagery (Airbus) and the photographs obtained revealed the shadows of 50 surviving headstones within the cemetery (Images Nos. 1-3). These represent the final remaining tombstones of Chakhmagli cemetery.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located on a high hill in the south of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1990 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
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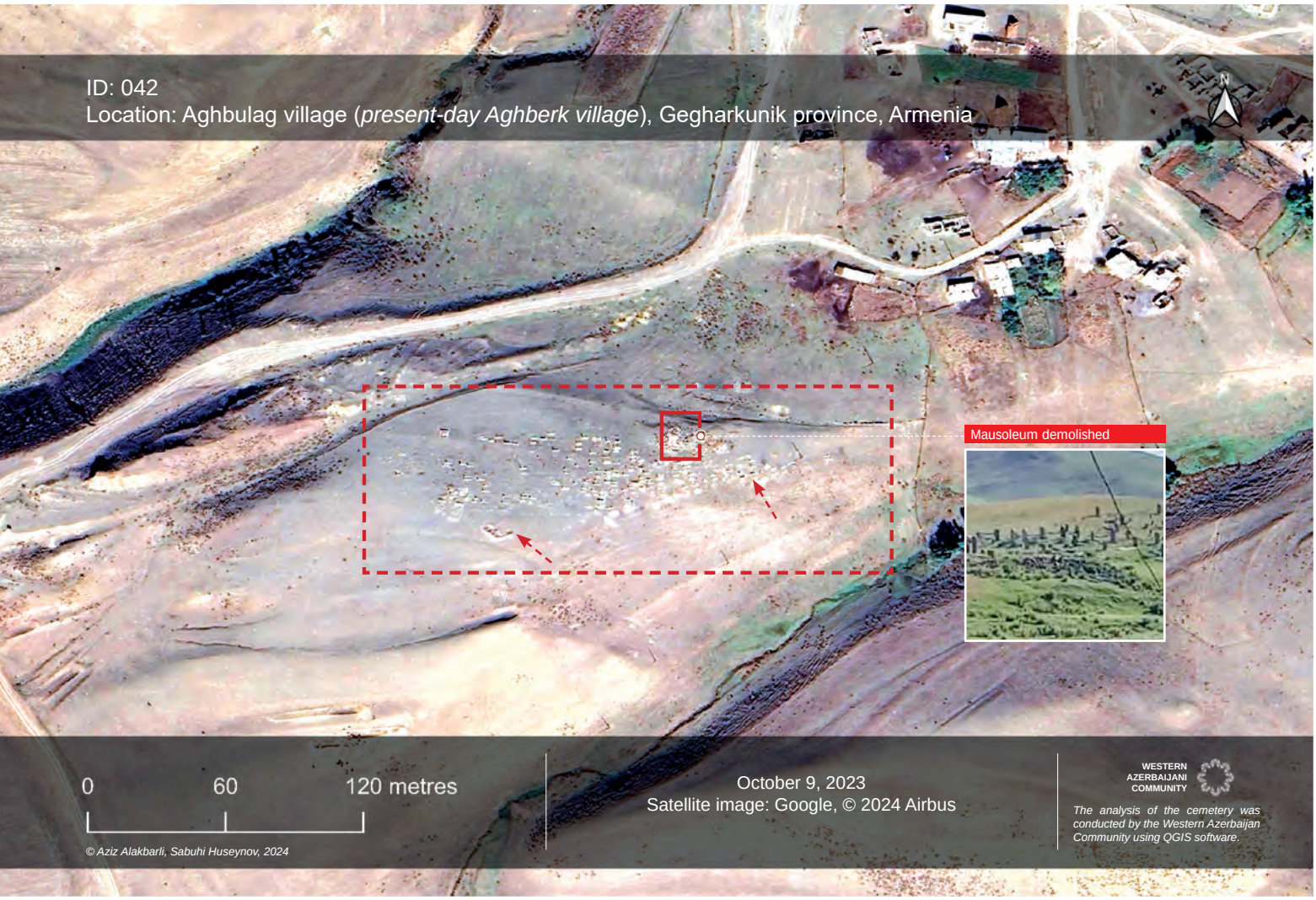
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. January 17, 2007. CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
12. *WordlView-2*, April 24, 2012. DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. October 09, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127-B (*Krasnosel'sk*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127 *(Kamo*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.

ID: 042
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mirali Agha and Miryagub Agha Mausoleum clearly visible
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 042
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum demolished
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 17, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus DS.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

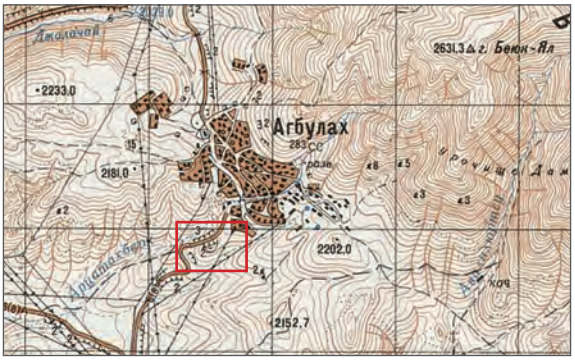
ID: 042
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum demolished
0
60
120 metres
April 24, 2012 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024


ID: 042
Location: Aghbulag village (*present-day Aghberk village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum demolished
0
60
120 metres
October 9, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

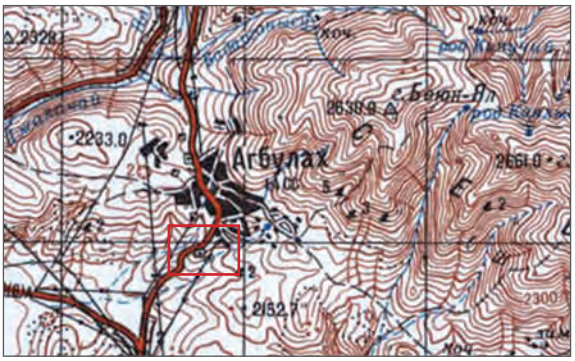
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2007

Status: DESTROYED

Chaykend Village Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Chaykend village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Dprabak village (Armenian)
ID: 061 [MC-088], 40.689632, 45.1294114

Chaykend was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Garagoyunlu valley, on the bank of the Tarsa river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. The village was founded in 1778.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 476 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Chaykend within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 569 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, 250 Azerbaijani residents of Chaykend village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Chaykend village was renamed Dprabak.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 2.2-hectare area. During this period, the tombstones and grave monuments in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and the area was fenced.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 16, 2007[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings revealed extensive alterations within the cemetery site. Within this timeframe, significant destruction occurred in the area — many tombstones were destroyed or severely damaged. By 2007, a new Armenian cemetery had been established in the eastern part of the cemetery.

A comparative analysis of satellite images dated 2007 and 2024[11] (Airbus) confirmed that the destruction within the cemetery area has continued systematically. Specifically, many of the grave slabs visible in the 2007 imagery had disappeared, and the iron railings surrounding the tombstones had been looted.

Research confirmed that the cemetery had been severely damaged by 2007. Photographs showing general views of the cemetery, taken by Armenian photographer Roza Julhakyan, revealed that the site had already suffered significant damage during that period and that many tombstones were no longer present.

The systematic continuation of the destruction process ultimately led to the looting of the cemetery by 2024. As a result of this process, a large number of tombstones and iron railings disappeared. The analysis of available data indicates that these acts of destruction were deliberate and sustained.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located within the village, on a high hill to the left of the road leading to Golkend. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1940 (1:42,000 scale)[12], 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1990 (1:100,000)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58.
4. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-coghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi väsakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 86.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
7. Alakberli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï*, 288.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
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11. July 06, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoi Armii. XXXII-36 (Gel'kent). [map]. 1:42,000. 1940.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map]. scale 1:50,000. 1975.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115 (*Idzhevan*) [map], scale 1:100,00, 1990.

ID: 061
Location: Chaykend village (*present-day Dprabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 061
Location: Chaykend village (*present-day Dprabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 16, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 061
Location: Chaykend village (*present-day Dprabak village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

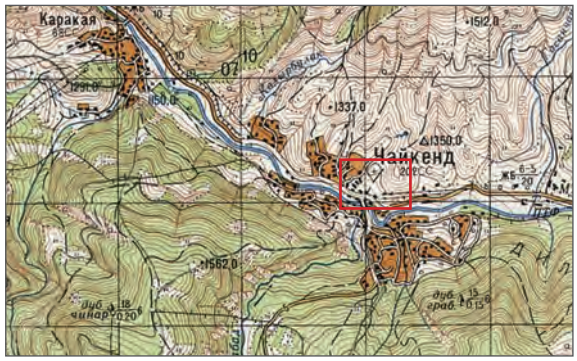
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1940

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

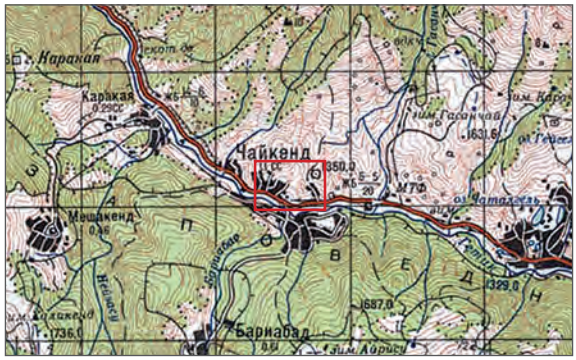
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2013

Status: OBLITERATED

Garagaya Village Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Garagaya village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Dzoravank village (Armenian)
ID: 063 [MC-112], 40.696862, 45.1116485

Garagaya was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Garagoyunlu valley, on the bank of the Tarsa river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 19th century.[1] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Turks" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 265 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In the spring of 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its 425 inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Garagaya within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 170 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, 260 Azerbaijani residents of Garagaya village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garagaya village was renamed Dzoravank.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 1-hectare area. During this period, the tombstones in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and the area was fenced.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 16, 2013[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. Findings indicate that the cemetery underwent significant changes during this timeframe. These changes involved large-scale excavation and earthmoving activities within the cemetery area, including the renewal of the soil surface using excavators and bulldozers.

Photographs taken in 2013 by Varam Dauyan documented the toppling of tombstones in the northern and northwestern parts of the site, the scratching off of portraits from headstones, and tampering with some graves (Images Nos. 2-7). As of that date, 20 headstones remained standing in the area.

During the events that took place between 1989 and 2013, the structure of the cemetery was altered, new boundaries were formed, and the cemetery suffered significant damage due to acts of severe vandalism and earthmoving operations. Most of the remaining tombstones in the area were broken, the site was reduced in size, its structure severely damaged, and as a result, a deliberate act of cultural heritage destruction took place.

An analysis of satellite imagery dated 2013 and 6 July 2024[11] (Airbus) determined that the situation in the area remained unchanged within this timeframe.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the east of the village, on the left side of the road leading to *Chaykend*. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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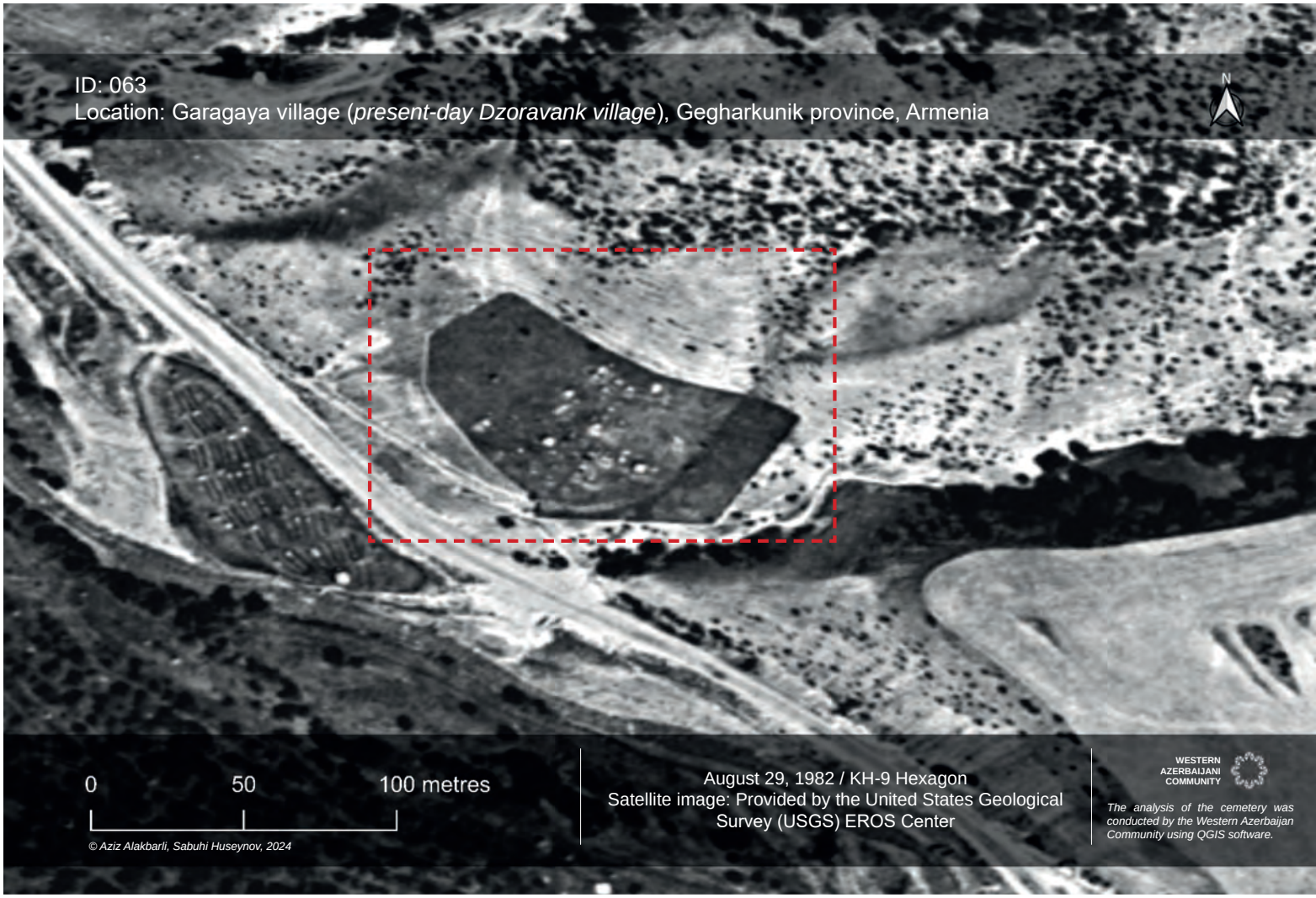
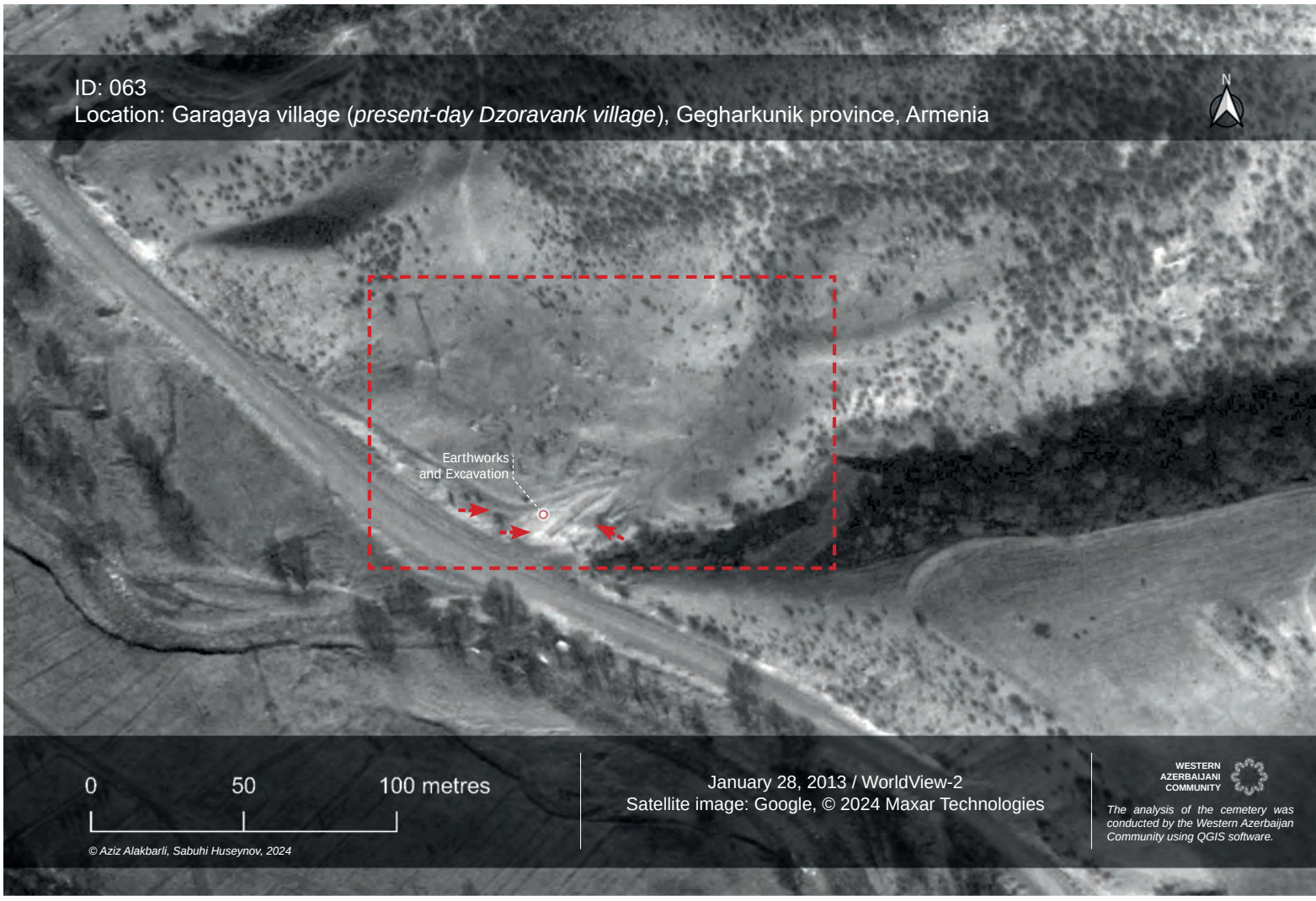
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58;
4. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 188.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 116-117.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 294.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *Spot 5*, January 28, 2013, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
11. July 6, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map]. scale 1:50,000. 1975.


ID: 063
Location: Garagaya village (*present-day Dzoravank village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

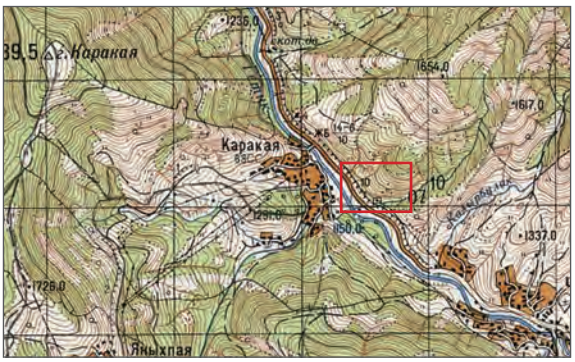

ID: 063
Location: Garagaya village (*present-day Dzoravank village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Earthworks and Excavation
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 28, 2013 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 063
Location: Garagaya village (*present-day Dzoravank village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Earthworks and Excavation
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



© Bagrat Khanyan, 2015

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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© Varaam Davauian, 2013

From 1989 to 2007

Status: DESTROYED

Golkend Village Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Golkend village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Aygut village (Armenian)
ID: 062 [MC-030], 40.6825565, 45.1651493

Golkend was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Garagoyunlu valley, on the right bank of the Tarsa river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. The village was also known as Garagoyunlu. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,866 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In the spring of 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Golkend within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 1015 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, 2,700 Azerbaijani residents of Golkend village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Golkend village was renamed Aygut.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 3.9-hectare area. The cemetery was divided into two parts by a highway running through its center. During this period, the tombstones and grave monuments in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and both parts were fenced.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982, (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 24, 2013[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings revealed extensive alterations within the cemetery site. Earthmoving operations had been carried out in the northern part of the cemetery and along the road passing through the center, and a new road had been constructed in the north. The number of tombstones had decreased, and many had been severely damaged. The structure of the cemetery was affected to a certain extent during the road reconstruction.

Photographs taken in 2017 by Julian Nyca show that although many tombstones still remained in the cemetery area, the modern tombstones located in the northern section had been destroyed, the portraits of people on them scratched off, and they had been subjected to severe vandalism (Images Nos. 1, 2, 4).

In the 2024 Airbus satellite imagery[11], the shadows of many tombstones were visible. The fence surrounding the cemetery has been destroyed. The destruction is ongoing.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the western part of the village, on a high hill at the entrance to the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1940 (1:42,000 scale)[12] and 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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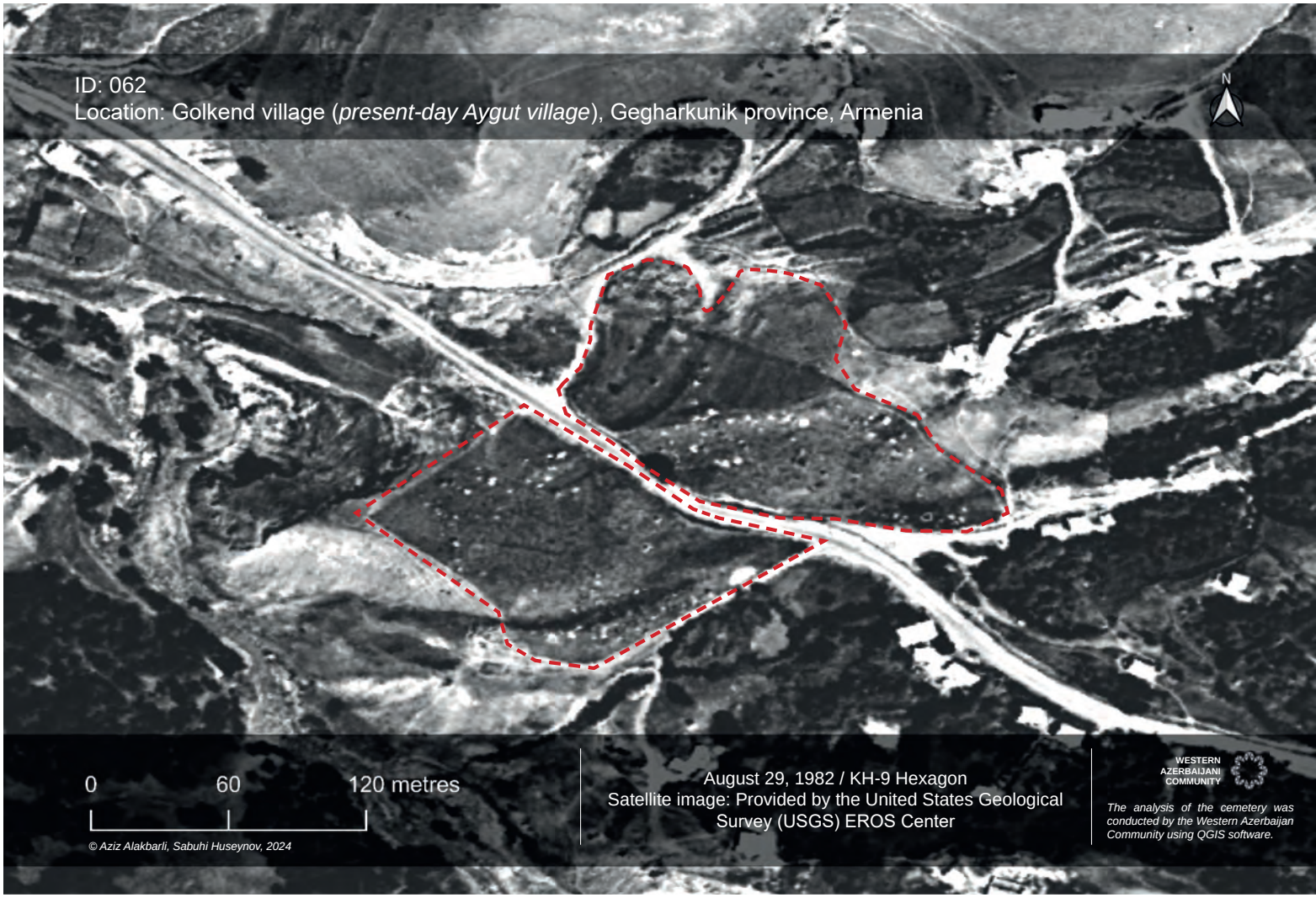
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58.
4. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, Häqiqätin onomastikasï: *Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021),124.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 287.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, June 24, 2013, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. *July 24, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.*
12. General'nyï Shtab Krasnoi Armii. XXXII-36 (Gel'kent). [map]. 1:42,000. 1940.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map]. scale 1:50,000. 1975.

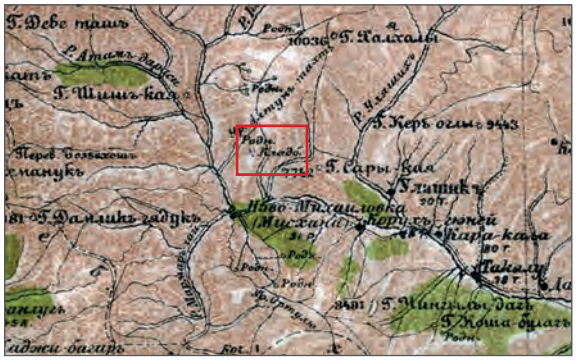

ID: 062
Location: Golkend village (*present-day Aygut village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 062
Location: Golkend village (*present-day Aygut village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Earthworks and Excavation
Earthworks and Excavation
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 24, 2013 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

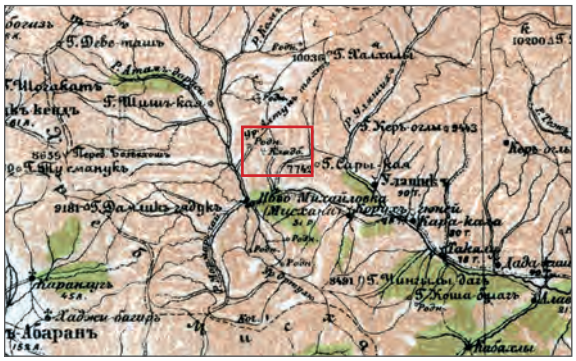
1940

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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© Julian Nyča. 2017

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© Julian Nyča, 2017

From 1989 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Jil Village New Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Jil village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Jil village (Armenian)
ID: 080 [MC-065], 40.4448643, 45.4515698

Jil was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, west of Shishgaya village, on the Jil river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 12th century. Cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,035 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] In April 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Jil village within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 697 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, over 1,400 Azerbaijani residents of Jil village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

The village cemetery once housed the mausoleum of Mashadi Seyidali Agha, which was considered a site of great reverence by the local population and used to be visited by people from other Azerbaijani villages as well.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones and four mausoleums across a 2.62-hectare area.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983 (KH9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[8] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom), as well as video footage recorded at the cemetery on August 20, 2000, to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis revealed that the cemetery suffered extensive destruction and acts of vandalism between 1989 and 2000, during which all tombstones, including all mausoleums, were destroyed.

Another video recording from 2008 confirmed that the vast majority of tombstones were no longer present. Many tombstones had been toppled, the portraits and inscriptions on them scraped off, and the footage showed that only around 10 tombstones remained standing across the entire cemetery. These were old tombstones. All valuable tombstones had been looted and removed from the site (Images Nos. 6-11).

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 (Spot 5) and 2023[9] (Airbus) identified shadows of only 8 tombstones in the cemetery. Of the destroyed mausoleums, only the foundations of one could be identified. The remaining mausoleums had been completely destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

Jil cemetery is located in the southeastern part of the village. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1926 (scale 1:210,000)[10], 1928 (1:210,000)[11], 1931 (1:42,000[12] and 1:210,000[13]), 1933 (1:210,000)[14], 1936 (1:210,000)[15], 1940 (1:210,000)[16], 1941 (1:210,000)[17], 1979 (1:50,000)[18] and 1990 (1:100,000)[19]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 281.
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9. November 02,2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
10. Upravlenie voennykh topografov. Ryad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
11. Upravlenie voennykh topografov. Ryad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1928.
12. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXIII-37 (*Dzhil*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1931.
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15. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, E.8 (*Erivan*') [map], scale 1:210,000, 1936.
16. General'nyĭ Shtab RKKA, E.8 (*Erevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1940.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoi Armii, E.8 (*Erevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127-G (*Artanish*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
19. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127 (*Kamo*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.

ID: 080
Location: Jil village (*present-day Jil village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mashadi Seyidali Agha Mausoleum
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Cente.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 080
Location: Jil village (*present-day Jil village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Mausoleum demolished
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus DS.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

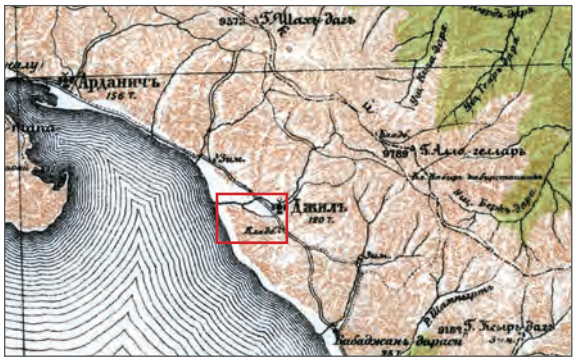
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1928

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1928 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

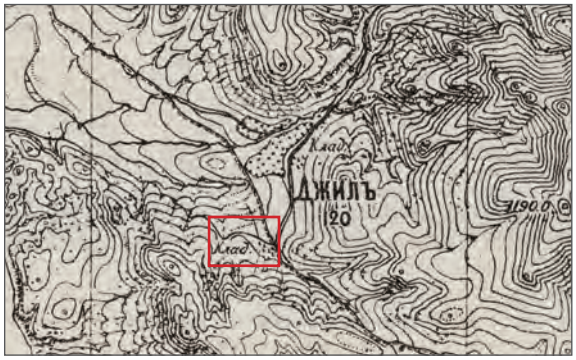


1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

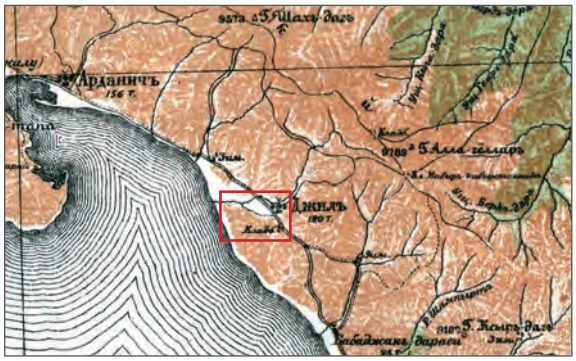
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



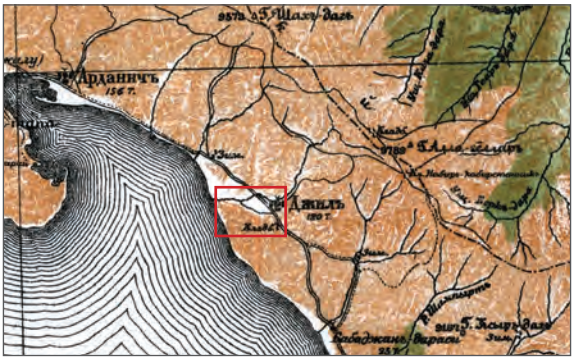
1933

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1936

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1936 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1940

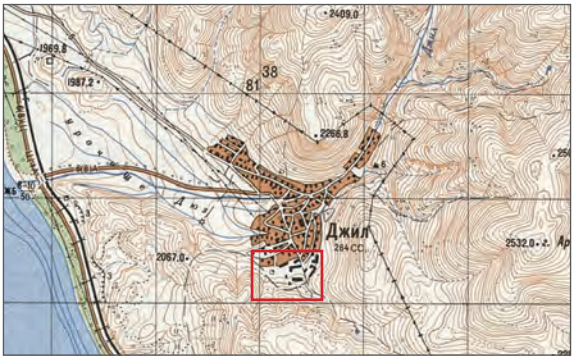
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1941

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

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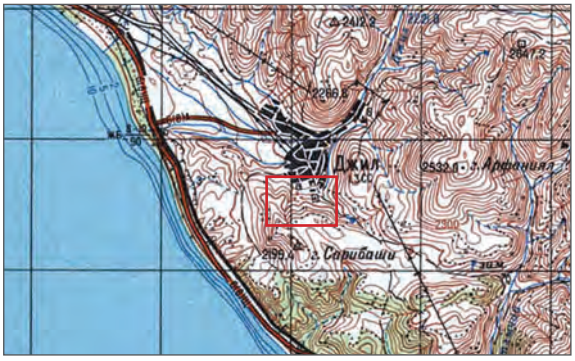

SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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8

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10

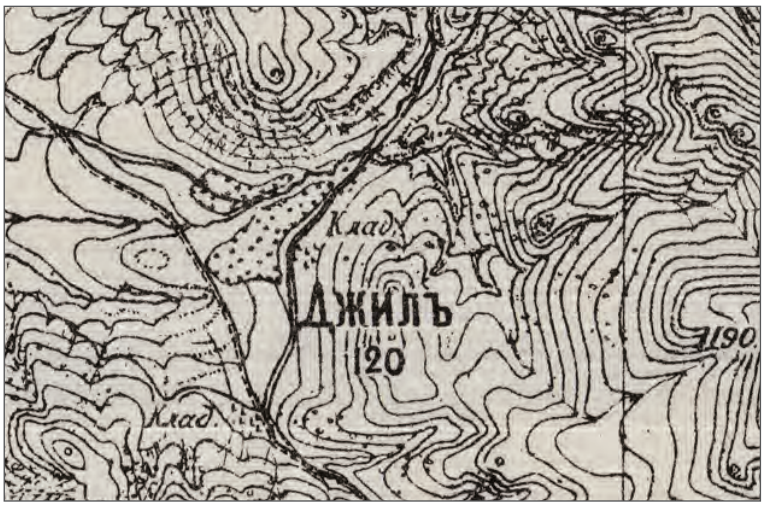
11

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Jil Village Old Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Jil village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Jil village (Armenian)
ID: 081 [MC-064], 40.4518244, 45.4541384



Jil was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, west of Shishgaya village, on the Jil river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 12th century. Cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records of the 19th and 20th centuries indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,035 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune[2] within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In April 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Jil village within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 697 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, over 1,400 Azerbaijani residents of Jil village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

In the southwestern part of Jil village, there was a (new) cemetery, and in the northeastern part of the village, there was an old cemetery.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing old tombstones across a 1.13-hectare area. During this period, the tombstones and grave monuments in the cemetery, as well as its general layout were not subjected to destruction; its integrity was protected by the village population, and it was surrounded by natural boundaries. There was a spring on the eastern side of the cemetery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[9] (Spot 5) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings revealed extensive alterations within the cemetery site. The analysis conducted on the latter imagery revealed that excavation and earthmoving had been carried out, dividing the cemetery into two parts. Within the examined timeframe, earthmoving operations measuring 115 meters in length and 2–4 meters in width were carried out from east to west within the cemetery area, and these activities destroyed tombstones and divided the structure of the cemetery into two parts. Photographic images from 2015 to 2020 show that none of the tombstones bear inscriptions. The earthmoving operations and destruction identified in the satellite imagery of the cemetery site were also confirmed by photographic evidence (Images Nos. 1-6).

The subsequent condition of the cemetery was assessed through a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 (Spot 5) and 2023[10] (Airbus). The comparative analyses determined that the situation in the area remained stable during these dates.

The cemetery became a victim of the Armenians' appropriation policy and was registered under the inventory number 4.7.7 and declared an Armenian cemetery dating from the 10th to 18th centuries by the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Additionally, on April 17, 2007, by the resolution No. 456 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, a newly identified khachkar from the 15th–16th centuries was added to the state registry.[11]

However, this cemetery was marked as a Muslim cemetery on 1:42,000 scale military-topographic maps prepared in 1895 by the Military Topographers Directorate of the Russian Empire and reprinted in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the USSR.[12]

ID: 081
Location: Jil village (*present-day Jil village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Thus, the analysis conducted on the old cemetery in Jil village reveals the site's historical significance and exposes the Armenian side's policy of cultural appropriation. Although the cemetery is recognized as a Muslim site dating from the 16th–18th centuries, the Armenian side falsified this area and registered it as an "Armenian cemetery" allegedly dating from the 10th–18th centuries.

Satellite analyses identified that, following the 1988 deportation, Armenians carried out extensive earthmoving operations in this area, destroyed tombstones, and divided the cemetery into two parts — findings confirmed by satellite imagery dated 2007 and 2023 and photographic evidence. This process resulted in the systematic erasure of Azerbaijan's historical and cultural heritage. However, the Armenian side went even further by installing a khachkar in the area in an attempt to Armenianize the cemetery. This is an attempt to falsify not only a historical site, but also the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people.

As a result, the destruction of the old cemetery in the village represents not only the loss of historical heritage, but also proves that Armenia continues its policy of appropriating Azerbaijani history on historical Azerbaijani lands. The cemetery became a victim of this policy and was falsely associated with Armenian culture.

GEOLOCATION:

Jil cemetery is located in the northeastern part of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[13] and 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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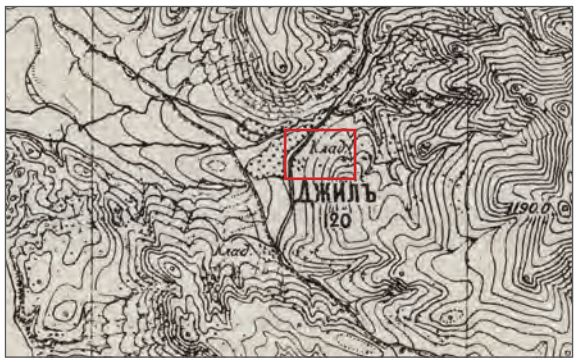
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 281.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A013*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *Spot 5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
10. November 02, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
11. *"On Amendments to a Number of Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia," April 12, 2007, No. 456-N.*
12. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXIII-37 (*Dzhil*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
13. *Ibid.*
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127-G (*Artanish*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.

ID: 081
Location: Jil village (*present-day Jil village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 2, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

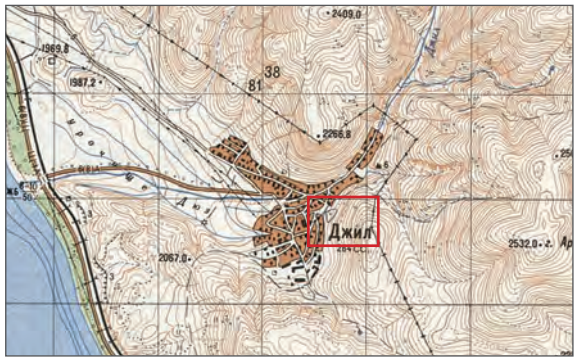
1940

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

© Husradzan, 2023

From 1989 to 2019

Status: DESTROYED

Shorja Village Muslim Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Shorja village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Shoghakat village (Armenian)
ID: 044 [MC-499], 40.507279, 45.270908

Shorja was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located on the eastern shore of Lake Goycha, north of Adatepe. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources refer to the village as "Shor Ali" as early as the first half of the 19th century, and later as "Shorjali".[1] Records from that period indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Karapapakhs" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). Between 1840 and 1844, the Azerbaijani population of the village was displaced and replaced by settlers, including Mordvins, a group of Chuvash, and Orthodox Tatars. By 1878, the village appeared in statistical records under the name Nadezhdino (Shorjali).[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 581 Russian residents.[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[4] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the *Elizavetpol Governorate*, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In the spring of 1919, the village was occupied following an Armenian attack. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Shorja within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 6 Azerbaijanis resettled in the village alongside 494 Russians, and together they began restoring and inhabiting the area.[6] In the following years, the number of Azerbaijanis in Shorja gradually increased. In 1932, the village was once again officially named Shorja. By the late 1970s, the Azerbaijani population of the village had reached 956.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, 1,000 Azerbaijani residents of Shorja village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] Shorja village was renamed Shoghakat in November 2017.

The village housed several cemeteries. These included separate cemeteries for Russians, Mordvins, and Azerbaijanis. The Azerbaijani cemetery was situated to the right of the road leading from Shorja village to Aghbulag village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 0.5-hectare area. During this period, the tombstones in the cemetery to the right of the road leading to Aghbulag village were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and the area was fenced.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon), October 29, 2019[9] (WorldView-2) and October 9, 2023[10] (Airbus) was conducted to examine the changes in the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. Analysis indicates that during this period, earthmoving was carried out in the western section of the cemetery near the roadside, reportedly in connection with road reconstruction. As a result, several tombstones and segments of the cemetery's fencing in that area were destroyed.

The latest satellite imagery shows that, aside from the western section where the disturbance occurred, the overall structure of the cemetery has been largely preserved, though some destruction is visible in several locations. Due to the lack of photographic documentation from the site, it has not been possible to determine the full extent of the damage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the north of the village, on the right side of the road leading to Aghbulag, at an elevation of 1,968 meters above sea level. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1976 (1:200,000 scale)[11], 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[12] and 1990 (1:100,000)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931) (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat,* 1932), 116-117
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 284.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A013*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *WordView-2*, October 23, 2019, Maxar via Esri Maph.
10. October 09, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-XXXIV (*Ozera Sevan*) [map], scale 1:200,000, 1976
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127-B (*Krasnosel'sk*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1979.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127 (*Kamo*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.

ID: 044
Location: Shorja village (*present-day Shoghakat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 044
Location: Shorja village (*present-day Shoghakat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 29, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 044
Location: Shorja village (*present-day Shoghakat village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 9, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

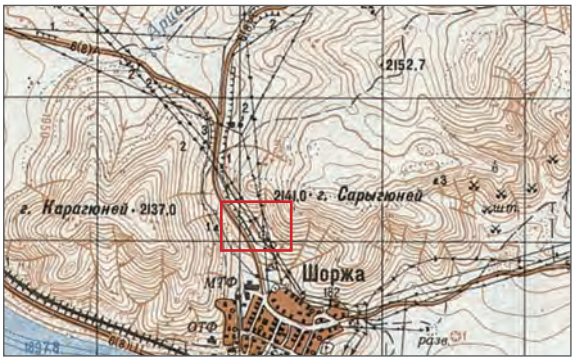
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1976

Marked on a *1:200,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



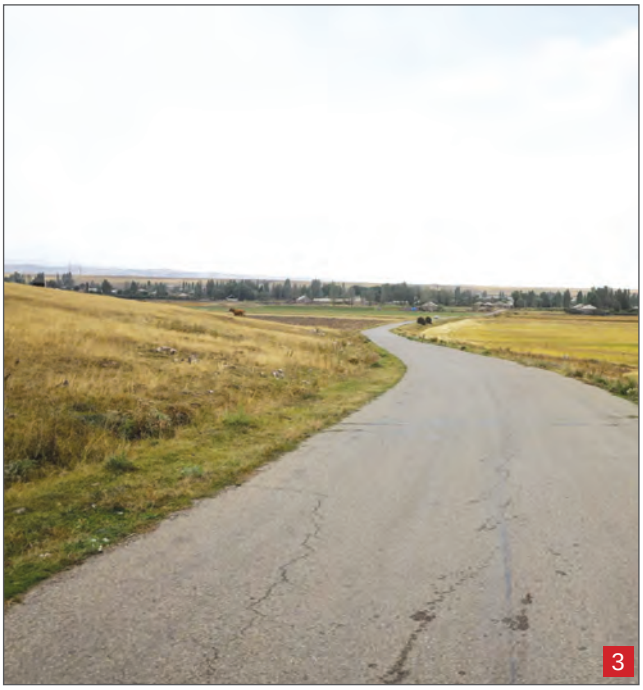
1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2


3

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2001

Status: DESTROYED

Tokhluja Village Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Tokhluja village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Drakhtik village (Armenian)
ID: 045 [MC-040], 40.569789, 45.2440248

Tokhluja was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located west of the northeastern shore of Lake Goycha, on both banks of the Tokhluja river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources mention the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims", "Karapapakhs" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,373 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Jil village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Novo-Bayazid *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In late April 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Tokhluja village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 1,176 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, 2,985 Azerbaijani residents of Tokhluja village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Tokhluja village was renamed Drakhtik.[9]

Within the village cemetery, there were two mausoleums: one built in 1967 over the grave of Sayyid Mashadi Mirismayil Agha Sayyid Mirsadig oghlu Seyidov, and another built in 1977 over the grave of Molla Masdan Bayram oghlu Kalvaygurbanov.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 19, 1982[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the village cemetery, revealing tombstones and two mausoleums across a 1.3-hectare area.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 7, 2001[11] (Ikonos) (at right, bottom) was conducted to assess the situation following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population. The analysis revealed that the cemetery identified in the Hexagon image was found to have expanded by 0.5 hectares, reaching 1.8 hectares by 1988. Between 1989 and 2001, both mausoleums were destroyed, and significant damage to tombstones was documented in the southeastern section of the cemetery. This marked the onset of acts of vandalism and destruction within the cemetery.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2001 and August 26, 2019[12] (CNES/Airbus) was conducted to identify changes that occurred in the cemetery area in subsequent periods. Between 2001 and 2019, all tombstones in the old cemetery—located in the western part of the site and separated by a ravine—were removed. The area was leveled and converted into agricultural land.

An analysis of satellite imagery dated 2019 and 2023 (Airbus) indicates that the condition of the area remained unchanged during this period.

Although the cemetery was under protection in 1982 and had expanded by 1988, it was abandoned following the deportation. From that point onward, acts of vandalism and destruction began: the mausoleums were demolished by 2001, and the destruction had expanded further by 2018. By 2018–2019, the old cemetery in the western section had been obliterated and repurposed as farmland. By 2023, the condition of the area had remained stable. These developments resulted in the large-scale destruction of the cemetery and its transformation from a cultural heritage site into a commercial area.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the north of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1979 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1990 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1979 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 125.
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11. *Ikonos*, September 07, 2001, GeoEye via Esri Map.
12. October 09, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
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14. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-127 (*Kamo*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.

ID: 045
Location: Tokhluja village (*present-day Drakhtik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Old cemetery
New cemetery
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

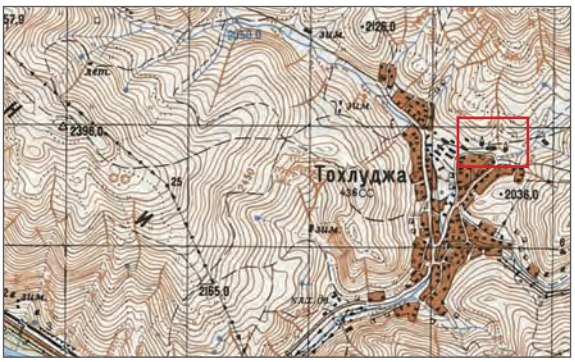
ID: 045
Location: Tokhluja village (*present-day Drakhtik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Old cemetery
New cemetery
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 7, 2001 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 045
Location: Tokhluja village (*present-day Drakhtik village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
Old cemetery
New cemetery
0
80
160 metres
October 9, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

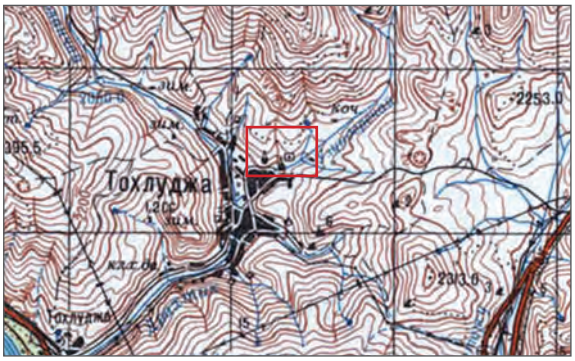
1979

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1979 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© 3D60Armenia, 2018

From 1989 to 1995

Status: DESTROYED

Yanigpaya Village Cemetery

Location: Krasnoselo district, Yanigpaya village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Antaramej village (Armenian)
ID: 060 [MC-114], 40.682164, 45.090567

Yanigpaya was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Goycha *mahal*, located in the Garagoyunlu valley, west of the Tarsa river. It was incorporated into Krasnoselo district on December 31, 1937. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 19th century. Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to an archival record dated 1919, the village had 226 Azerbaijani residents (*recorded as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh Governorate General of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Yanigpaya within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 150 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.5 By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Yanigpaya was renamed Meshakend.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, 350 Azerbaijani residents of Yanigpaya village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Yanigpaya village was renamed Antaramej.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, identifying it on the western slope of an elevated area in the southeastern part of the village, covering 1.24 hectares with tombstones and a mausoleum. During this period, the tombstones and the mausoleum in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and the area was fenced.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon), November 15, 2010[10] (WorldView-1) and June 24, 2013[11] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the abandoned cemetery was divided up for repurposing. The perimeter walls were demolished, and tombstones across the entire area were subjected to destruction. As an exception, a number of tombstones and a single mausoleum were identified only in the southwestern section, within an area of approximately 2,000 square meters.

In 2013, photographs taken by Armenian photographer Bagrat Khanyan (Image No. 3) documented the presence of the mausoleum along with 32 headstones around it; however, the graves in other parts of the cemetery had been destroyed.

An analysis of the dense vegetation growth in the area suggests that land clearing activities likely occurred much earlier, possibly in the mid-1990s.

Satellite imagery dated 2023[12] shows the presence of several tombstones around the trees. However, due to the tree cover, it has not been possible to determine the current condition of the mausoleum.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the southeastern part of the village, on the northwestern and western slopes of a high hill. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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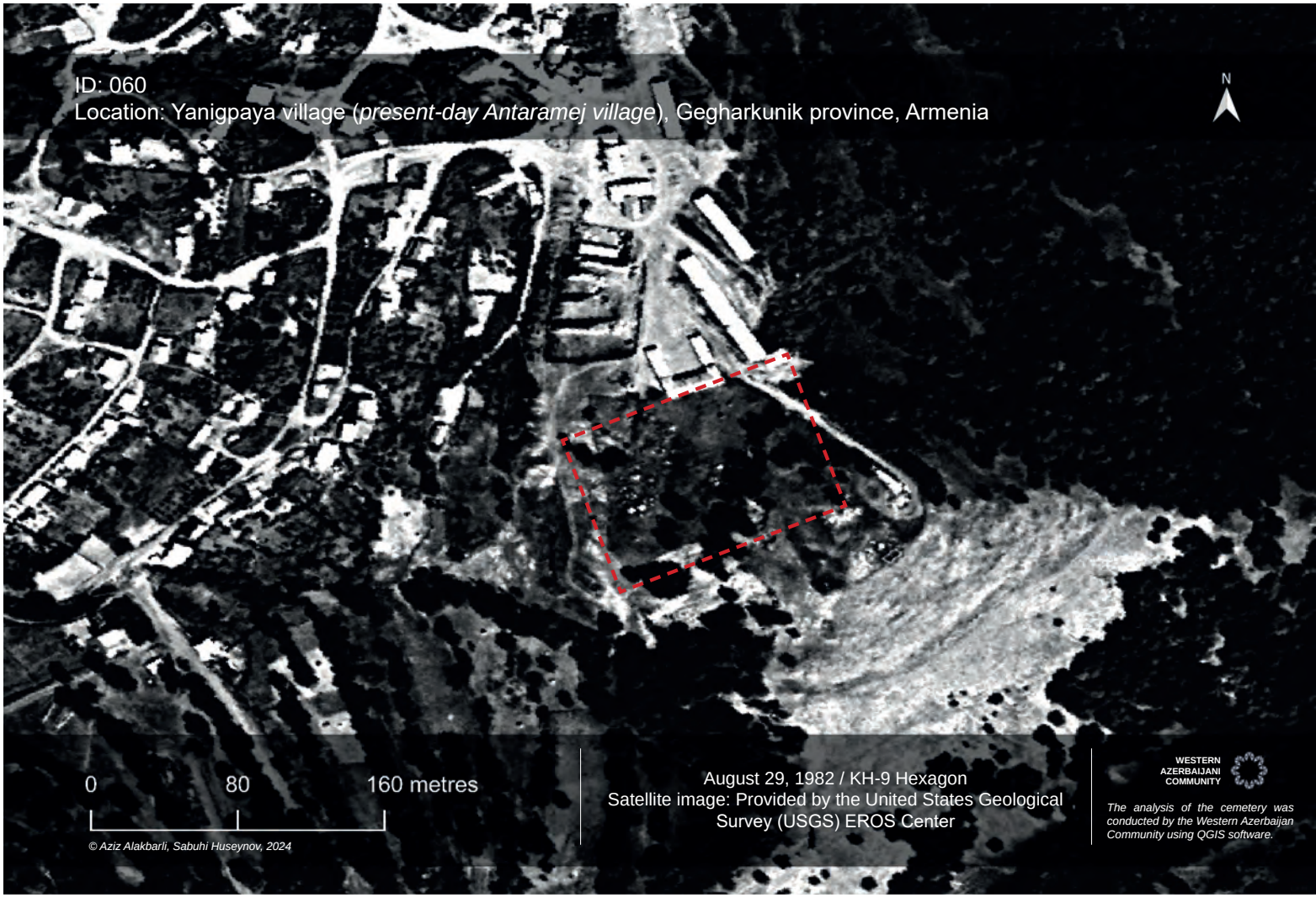
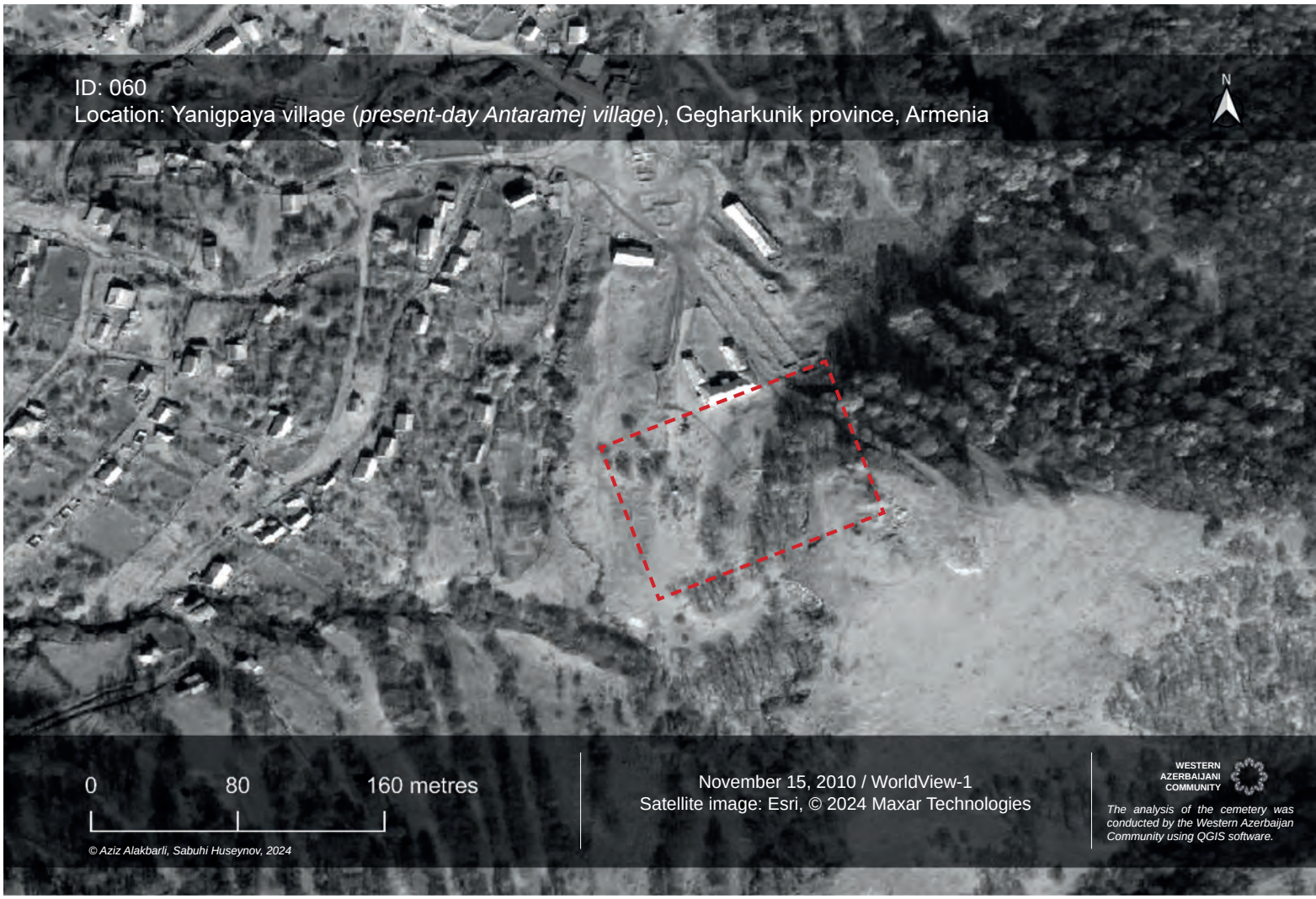
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-1*, November 15, 2010, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. WorldView-2, June 24, 2013, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. July 06, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map]. scale 1:50,000. 1975.


ID: 060
Location: Yanigpaya village (present-day Antaramej village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 060
Location: Yanigpaya village (present-day Antaramej village), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 15, 2010 / WorldView-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

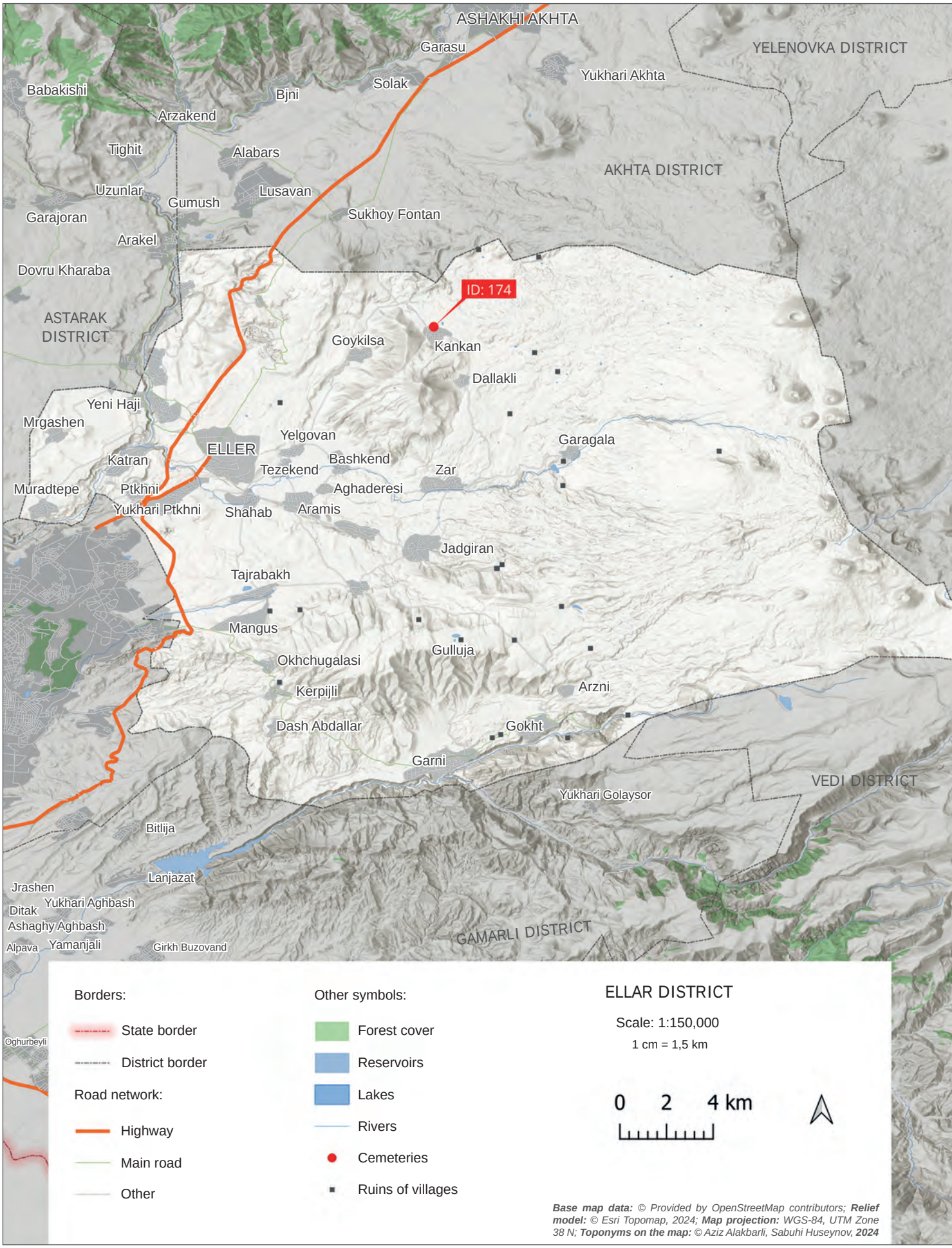
ID: 060
Location: Yanigpaya village (*present-day Antaramej village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 24, 2013 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

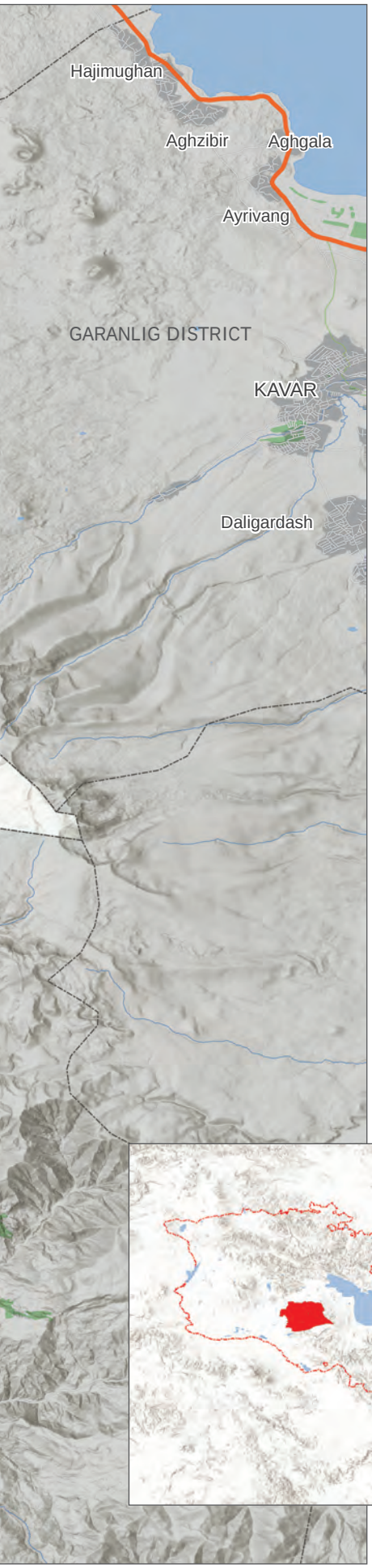
ID: 060
Location: Yanigpaya village (*present-day Antaramej village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Brakaway, 2024

© Bagrat Khanyan, 2013-2015


ASHAKHI AKHTA
Garasu
YELENOVKA DISTRICT
Yukhari Akhta
Babakishi
Bjni
Solak
Arzakend
Tighit
Alabars
AKHTA DISTRICT
Uzunlar
Gumush
Lusavan
Garajoran
Sukhoy Fontan
Arakel
Dovru Kharaba
ID: 174
ASTARAK DISTRICT
Goykilsa
Kankan
Dallakli
Yeni Haji
Mrgashen
Yelgovan
Garagala
ELLER
Katran
Bashkend
Tezekend
Zar
Muradtepe
Ptkhni
Aghaderesi
Yukhari Ptkhni
Shahab
Aramis
Jadgiran
Tajrabakh
Mangus
Gulluja
Okhchugalasi
Kerpijli
Arzni
Dash Abdallar
Gokht
Garni
VEDI DISTRICT
Yukhari Golaysor
Bitlija
Lanjazat
Jrashen
Yukhari Aghbash
Ditak
Ashaghy Aghbash
Alpava
Yamanjali
Girkh Buzovand
GAMARLI DISTRICT
Oghurbeyli
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
ELLAR DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



ELLAR DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Girkhbulag *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Ellar district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 844 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the city of Ellar (later renamed Abovyan, A.A., S.H), a city under direct republican administration, located 16 km from the city of Iravan.

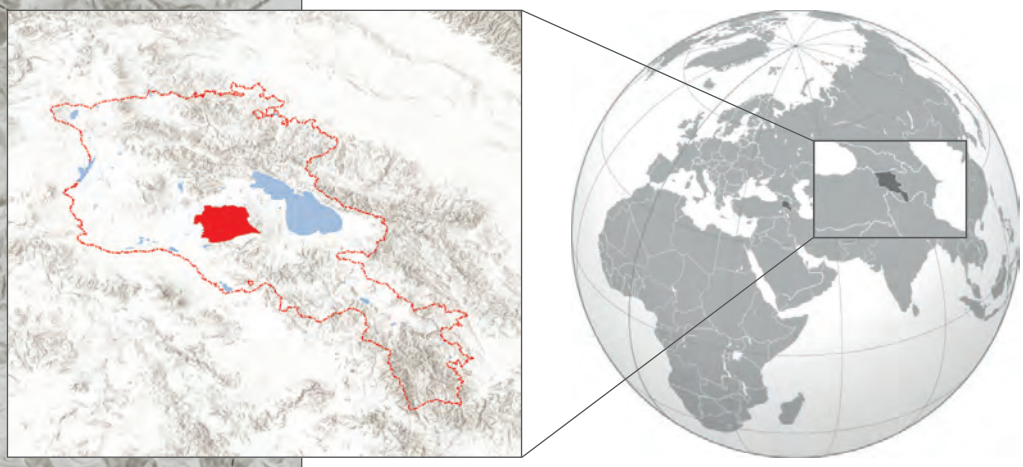
By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated October 12, 1961, the district was renamed Abovyan.

According to 1970 data, the district included 1 city under direct republican administration, 2 urban-type settlements, 16 village councils, and 34 residential settlements. The district's population (excluding the city of Ellar, A.A., S.H.) was recorded as 45,800, with 9,500 residing in urban areas and 36,300 in rural areas.

Goykilsa was the Azerbaijani-populated village whose inhabitants were forced to flee in 1988.

In 1990, Ellar district was renamed Kotayk district.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Kotayk province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 1989 to 2002

Status: OBLITERATED

Kankan Village Cemetery

Location: Ellar district, Kankan (Kenkan) village (Azerbaijani) / Kotayk province, Hatis village (Armenian)
ID: 174 [MC-262], 40.337798, 44.732342

Kankan was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Girkhbulag *mahal*, located on the northern slope of Koroghlu (Hadis) mountain, upstream on the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Ellar district on September 9, 1930, and later into Abovyan district on October 12, 1961. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 16th century.[1] These sources record the name of the village as Kenken, Kenkan, and Kankan. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,144 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

By March 1918, the village came under Armenian attack and residents were massacred. The survivors were forced to flee the village and took refuge in the surrounding mountains.[3] On June 14, 1918, while attempting to reach the city of Iravan and obtain permission to cross into Ottoman territory, they were once again attacked by Armenian armed groups along the way. Most were killed, and all their belongings were seized.[4] During this period, Armenians brought from the present-day territory of Turkiye were resettled in the village. In 1922, only 72 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside 279 Armenian refugees. The number of Armenian refugees later rose to 689, while the Azerbaijani population stood at 147.[5] However, this cohabitation did not last long. In 1949, the entire Azerbaijani population of the village, which had reached 200 people, was deported to Imishli district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[6]

From that point onward, only Armenians lived in the village. By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Kankan village was renamed Hatis.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[8] (KH-9 Hexagon) (at right, top) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis examined the landscape features of the cemetery, and an area of 1.8 hectares in the northern part of the village was identified by its heterogeneous, patchy surface — a characteristic feature of old cemeteries in the region. The continued existence of the cemetery up to that date may be explained by the fact that the deported population continued to return to visit their relatives' graves. For this reason, it is assumed that the Armenians did not disturb the cemetery during the Soviet period.

In contrast, however, the QuickBird-2 satellite imagery dated April 3, 2002[9] showed that by that date, the cemetery had already been completely destroyed, with no tombstones remaining on site (smaller graves may not be visible in the imagery, but a heterogeneous surface is observed, A.A., S.H.).

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated January 15, 2007[10] (Spot 5) and May 17, 2023[11] (Maxar) revealed that disruptions to the cemetery area, particularly to its structure have persisted to the present day.

However, observations indicate that the process of encroachment on the cemetery area continues, due to the construction of several dirt roads that are already in use and the expansion of surrounding farmland. Such changes may lead to the complete disappearance of the cemetery remains in the near future and the erasure of traces of historical and cultural heritage.

Thus, the scale and dynamics of these intrusions into the cemetery area raise serious concern not only in terms of the preservation of historical monuments but also with regard to the complete destruction of a unique cemetery and the ancient historical memory of the Azerbaijani people.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on a high hill to the north of the village, at an elevation of 2,021 meters above sea level. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[12], 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13], and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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6. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 374.
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9. *QuickBird-2*, April 02, 2002, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. *Spot-5*,January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
11. May 17, 2023, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXIV-34 (*Erivan' i Echmiadzin uezd*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
13. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126-V (Charentsavan) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-126 (*Sevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 174
Location: Kankan village (*present-day Hatis village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 174
Location: Kankan village (*present-day Hatis village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 2, 2002 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 174
Location: Kankan village (*present-day Hatis village*), Kotayk province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 17, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

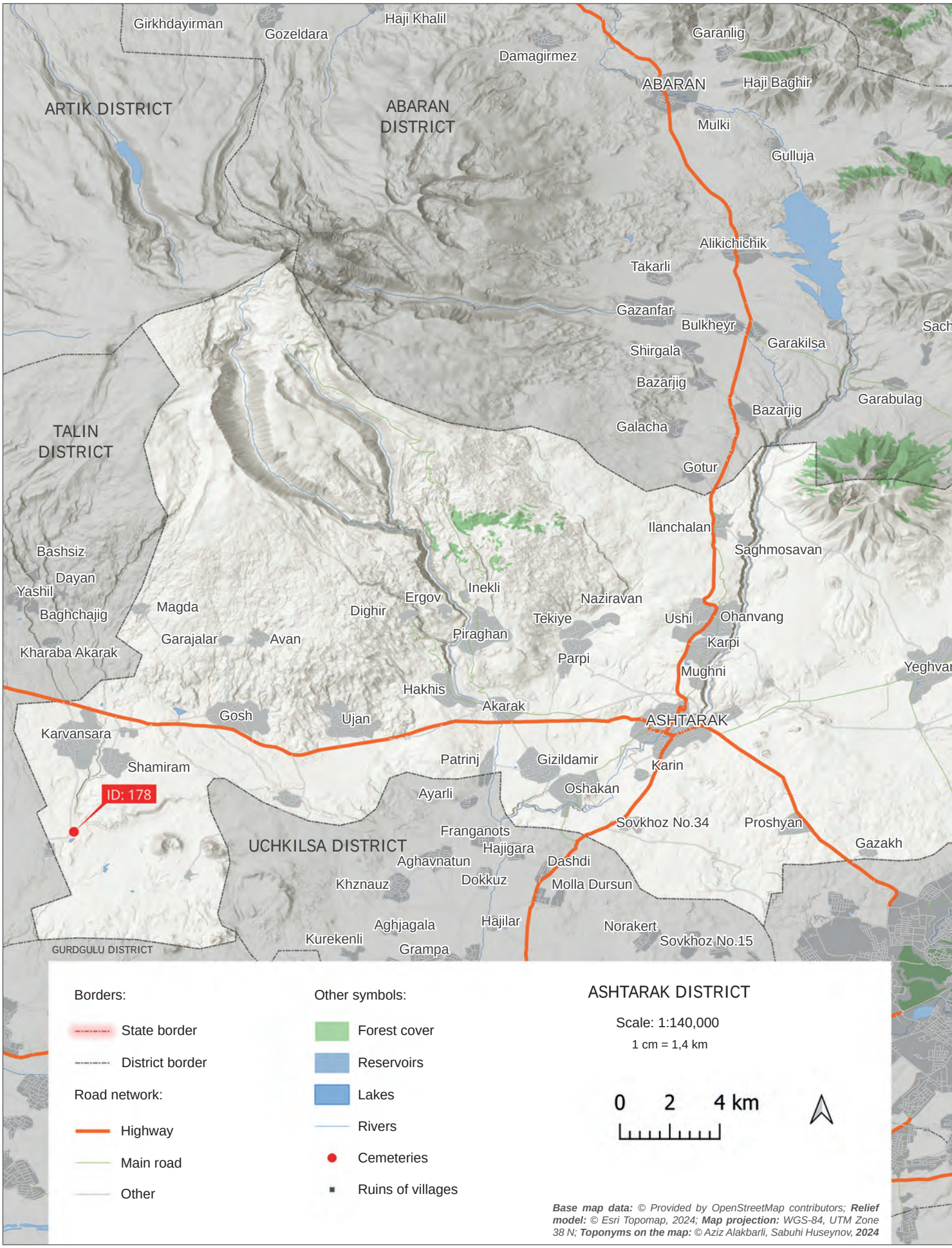
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

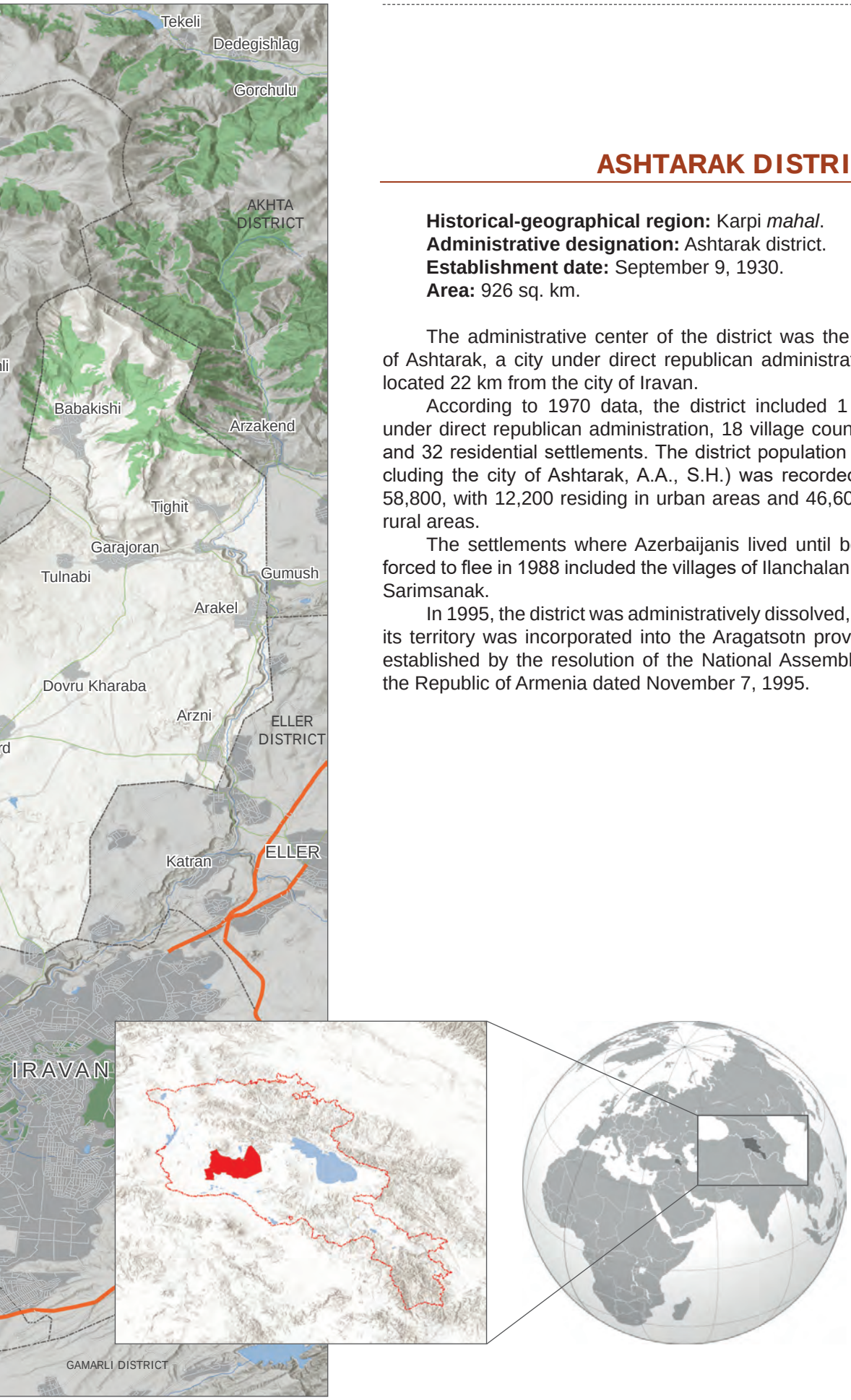
1

2

3

© Google, 2024, Airbus, 2023


Girkhdayirman
Gozeldara
Haji Khalil
Damagirmez
Garanlig
ABARAN
Haji Baghir
ARTIK DISTRICT
ABARAN DISTRICT
Mulki
Gulluja
Alikichichik
Takarli
Gazanfar
Bulkheyr
Garakilsa
Shirgala
Bazarjig
Garabulag
Bazarjig
TALIN DISTRICT
Galacha
Gotur
Ilanchalan
Saghmosavan
Bashsiz
Dayan
Yashil
Inekli
Ergov
Naziravan
Magda
Baghchajig
Dighir
Tekiye
Ushi
Ohanvang
Garajalar
Avan
Piraghan
Karpi
Kharaba Akarak
Parpi
Mughni
Hakhis
Akarak
Gosh
Ujan
ASHTARAK
Karvansara
Patrinj
Gizildamir
Karin
Shamiram
ID: 178
Ayarli
Oshakan
Sovkhoz No.34
Proshyan
Franganots
Hajigara
Gazakh
UCHKILSA DISTRICT
Aghavnatun
Dashdi
Khznauz
Dokkuz
Molla Dursun
Aghjagala
Hajilar
Norakert
Kurekenli
Grampa
Sovkhoz No.15
GURDGULU DISTRICT
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
ASHTARAK DISTRICT
Scale: 1:140,000
1 cm = 1,4 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



ASHTARAK DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Karpi *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Ashtarak district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 926 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the city of Ashtarak, a city under direct republican administration, located 22 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1970 data, the district included 1 city under direct republican administration, 18 village councils, and 32 residential settlements. The district population (excluding the city of Ashtarak, A.A., S.H.) was recorded as 58,800, with 12,200 residing in urban areas and 46,600 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Ilanchalan and Sarimsanak.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Aragatsotn province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

Unknown

Status: OBLITERATED

Kumbet Cemetery

Location: Ashtarak district, Kumbet Cemetery (Azerbaijani) / Aragatsotn province, Nor-Amanos village (Armenian)
ID: 178 [MC-542], 40.244297, 44.079766

Kumbet Cemetery was a Muslim Azerbaijani cemetery located on the roadside near the settlement known as the "2nd Sovkhoz" in the Karpi *mahal*. It was incorporated into Ashtarak district on September 9, 1930. The Cemetery was marked as 'Kumbet Cemetery' on 19th-century maps. It was one of the region's historic Muslim cemeteries. The cemetery derived its name from a kumbet (a domed mausoleum) located at its center. While some studies mention Arabic inscriptions on the partially collapsed walls of the mausoleum[1], the authors were unable to find any precise references to these inscriptions in the academic literature during their research. A detailed description of the mausoleum will be provided in the volume dedicated to mausoleums.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis of the cemetery condition during the Soviet period was conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery (at right, top) dated October 1, 1983[2]. The analysis examined the cemetery's landscape features, identifying it as an area of 0.7 hectares, characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface typical of historic cemeteries in the region, as well as a partially standing mausoleum in the northern section. There is no available information regarding the date of the mausoleum's destruction. Satellite imagery dated June 13, 2023[3] (Airbus) confirms the continued existence of the cemetery area, though attempts to encroach upon it from the east and south have been detected.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located at an elevation of 1,054 meters above sea level. This site was marked on German and Soviet topographic maps published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[4], 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[5], and 1982 (1:50,000 scale)[6]. Using the coordinates from the 1982 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates..

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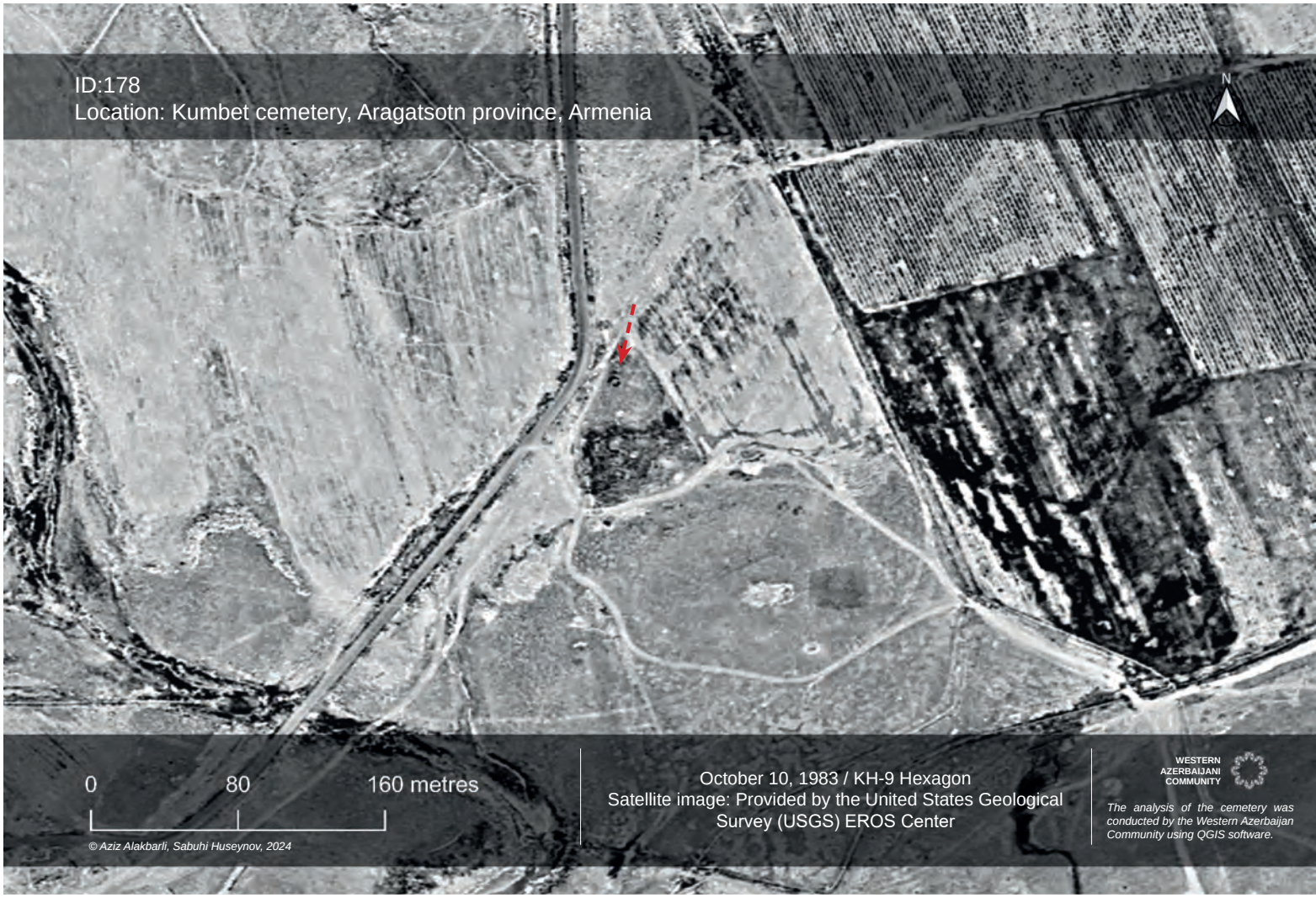
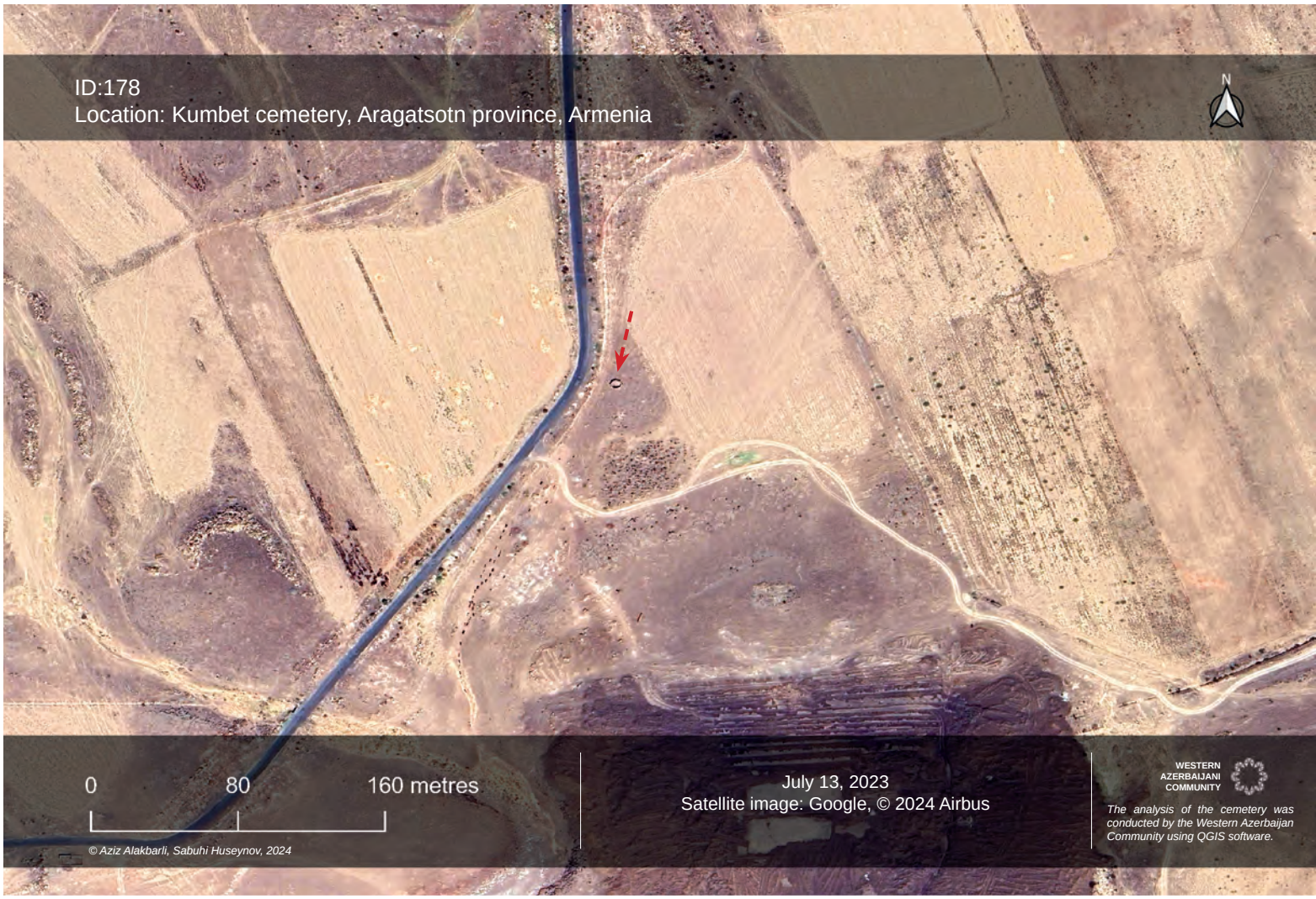
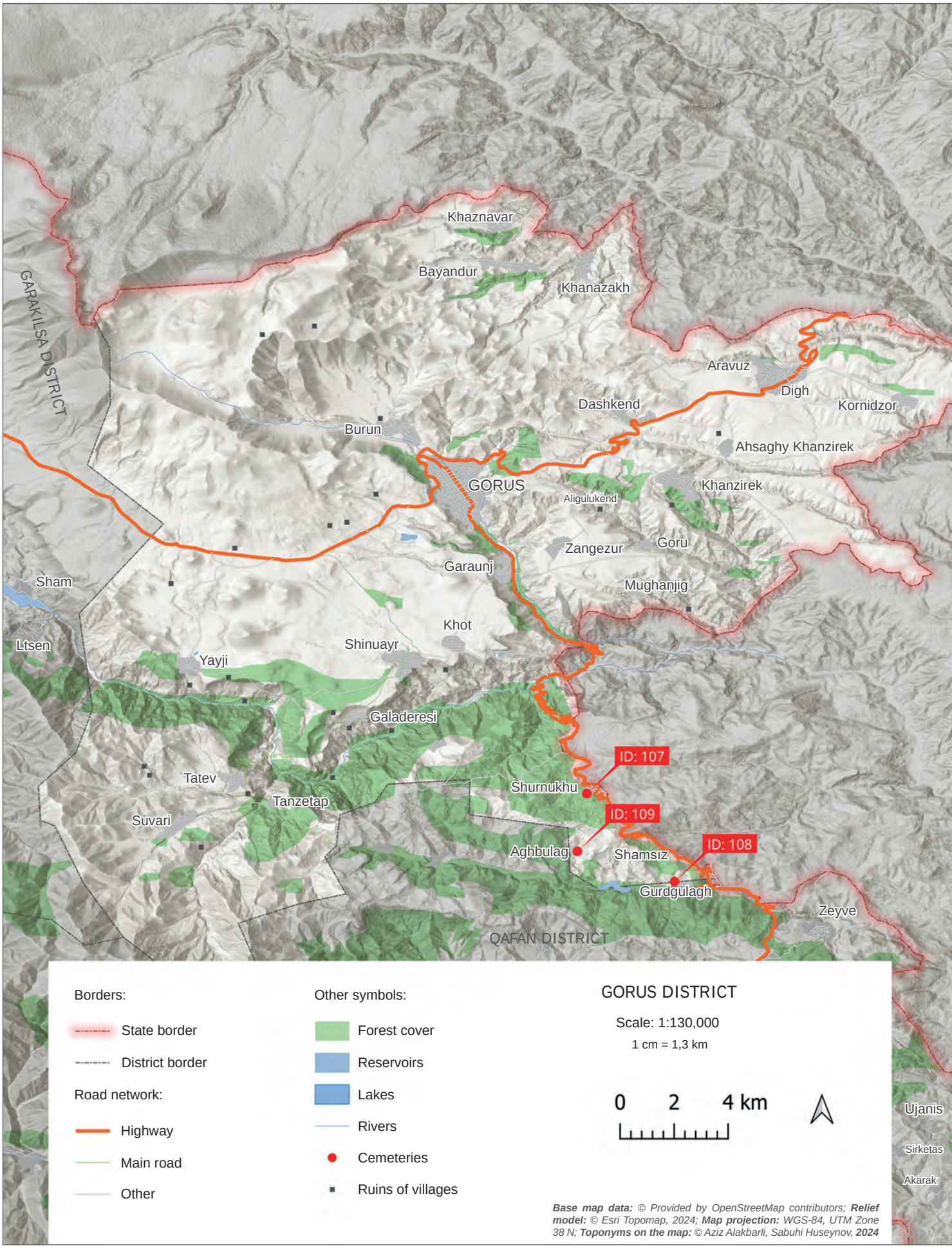
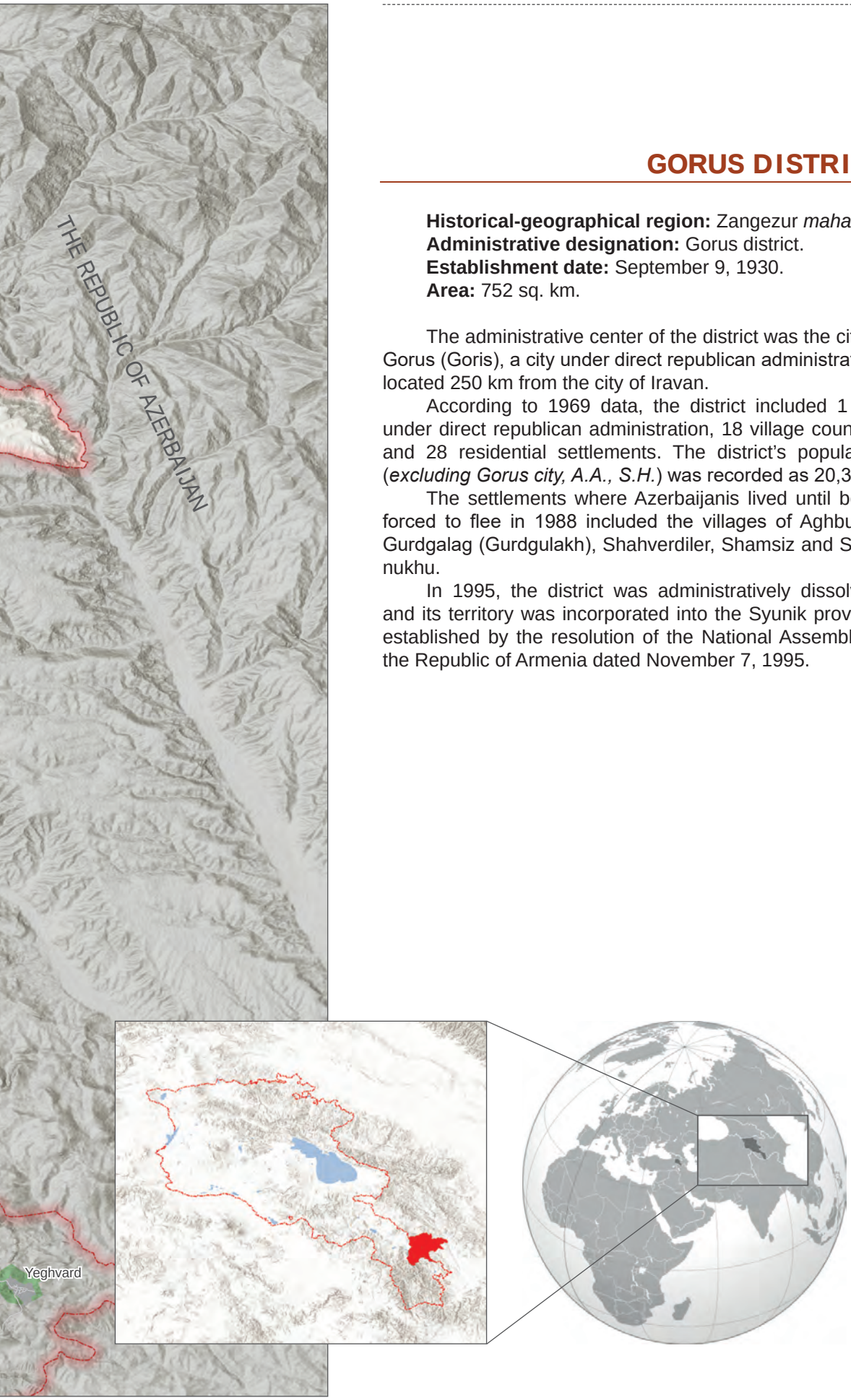
2. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 01, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
3. June 13, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
4. *Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / G.6.v.* [map], scale 1:84,000, 1918, Collection of Department of Geography, Humboldt University of Berlin.
5. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXIV-31 [map, 1:42,000,1931.
6. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-137-A (*Arshaluis*) [map]. scale 1:50,000, 1982.


ID:178
Location: Kumbet cemetery, Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID:178
Location: Kumbet cemetery, Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 13, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


Khaznavar
Bayandur
Khanazakh
GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Aravuz
Digh
Kornidzor
Dashkend
Burun
Ahsaghy Khanzirek
GORUS
Khanzirek
Aligulukend
Zangezur
Goru
Garaunj
Mughanjig
Sham
Khot
Ltsen
Shinuayr
Yayji
Galaderesi
ID: 107
Tatev
Shurnukhu
Tanzetap
ID: 109
Suvari
ID: 108
Aghbulag
Shamsız
Gurdgulagh
Zeyve
QAFAN DISTRICT
Ujanis
Sirketas
Akarak
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
GORUS DISTRICT
Scale: 1:130,000
1 cm = 1,3 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



GORUS DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Zangezur *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Gorus district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 752 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the city of Gorus (Goris), a city under direct republican administration, located 250 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1969 data, the district included 1 city under direct republican administration, 18 village councils, and 28 residential settlements. The district's population (*excluding Gorus city, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 20,300.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Aghbulag, Gurdgalag (Gurdgulakh), Shahverdiler, Shamsiz and Shurnukhu.

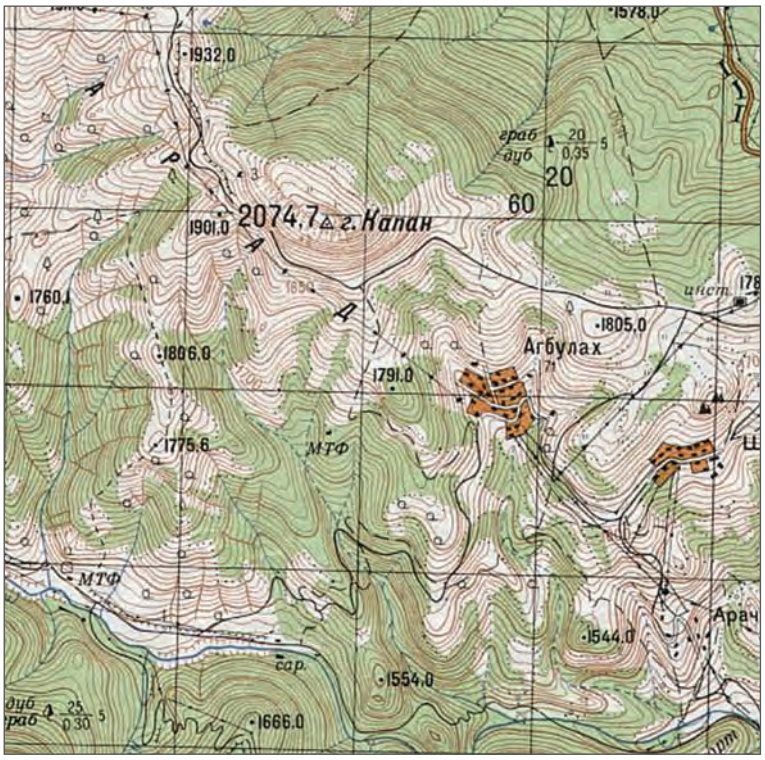
In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Syunik province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghbulag Village Cemetery

Location: Gorus district, Aghbulag village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, abandoned village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 109 [MC-502], 39.354187, 46.390088



Aghbulag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur *mahal* of Zangezur region, located at the foot of Kapaz mountain, on the left bank of the Kashin river, a right tributary of the Bazarchay river, within a forested area. It was incorporated into Gorus district on September 9, 1930. Aghbulag village derives its name from a spring originating on Kapaz mountain.

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Teymur Muskanli village commune[1] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the *Elizavetpol Governorate*, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] In 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, 37 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. The village had 66 Azerbaijani residents in 1926.[4]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 240 Azerbaijani residents of Aghbulag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5,6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[6] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 0.37-hectare area. During this period, the tombstones in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and the area was fenced.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 9, 2004[7] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the abandoned cemetery was obliterated. In the latter imagery, due to the forest cover in the area, the tombstones were no longer visible in satellite imagery. However, the destruction of all residential houses surrounding the cemetery supports the authors' conclusion that the cemetery had likely met the same fate by 2006. The image also shows that the perimeter walls around the cemetery had been demolished.

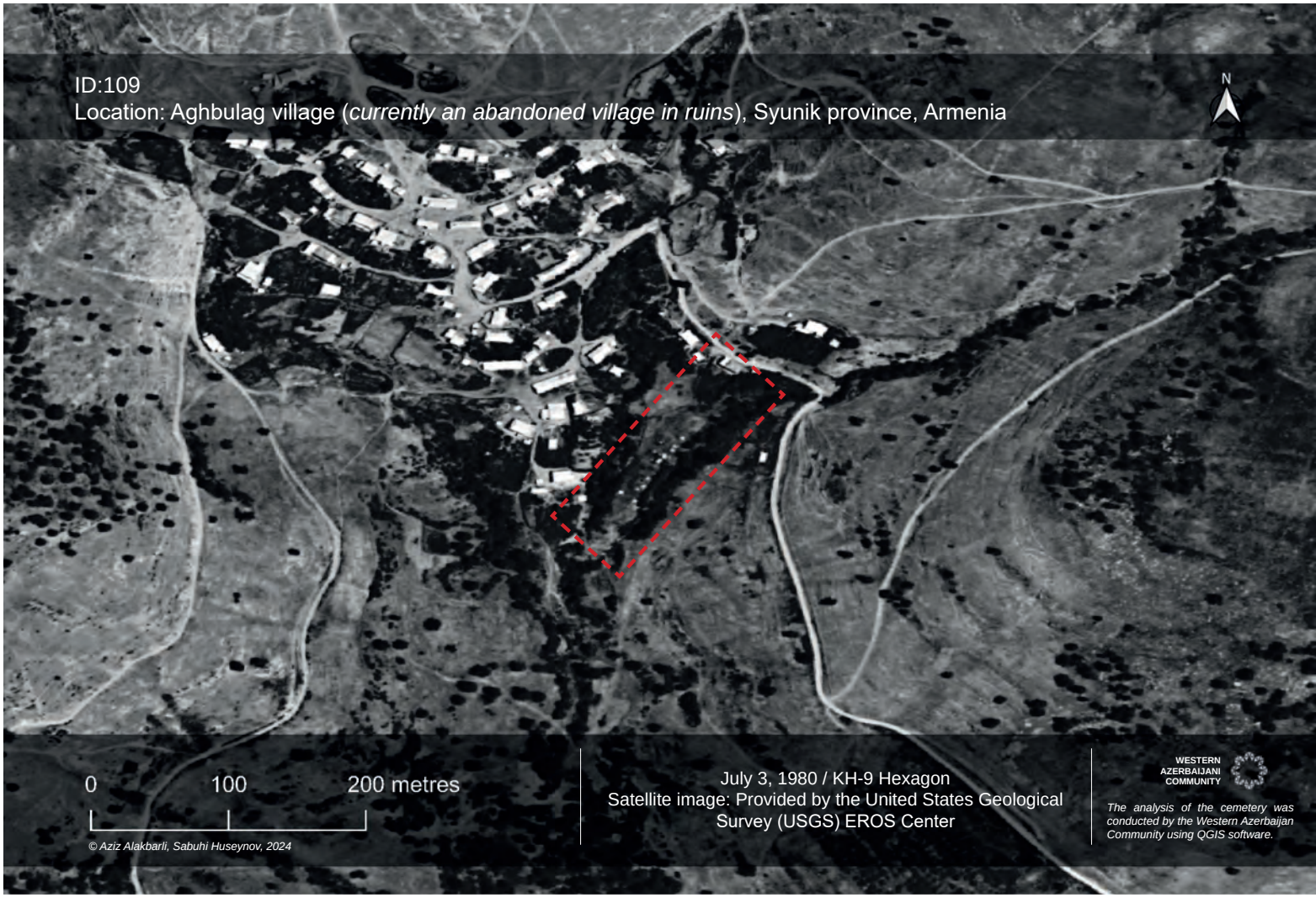
In subsequent satellite imagery, the area remains covered by forest trees, and as a result, they were not used in the analysis.

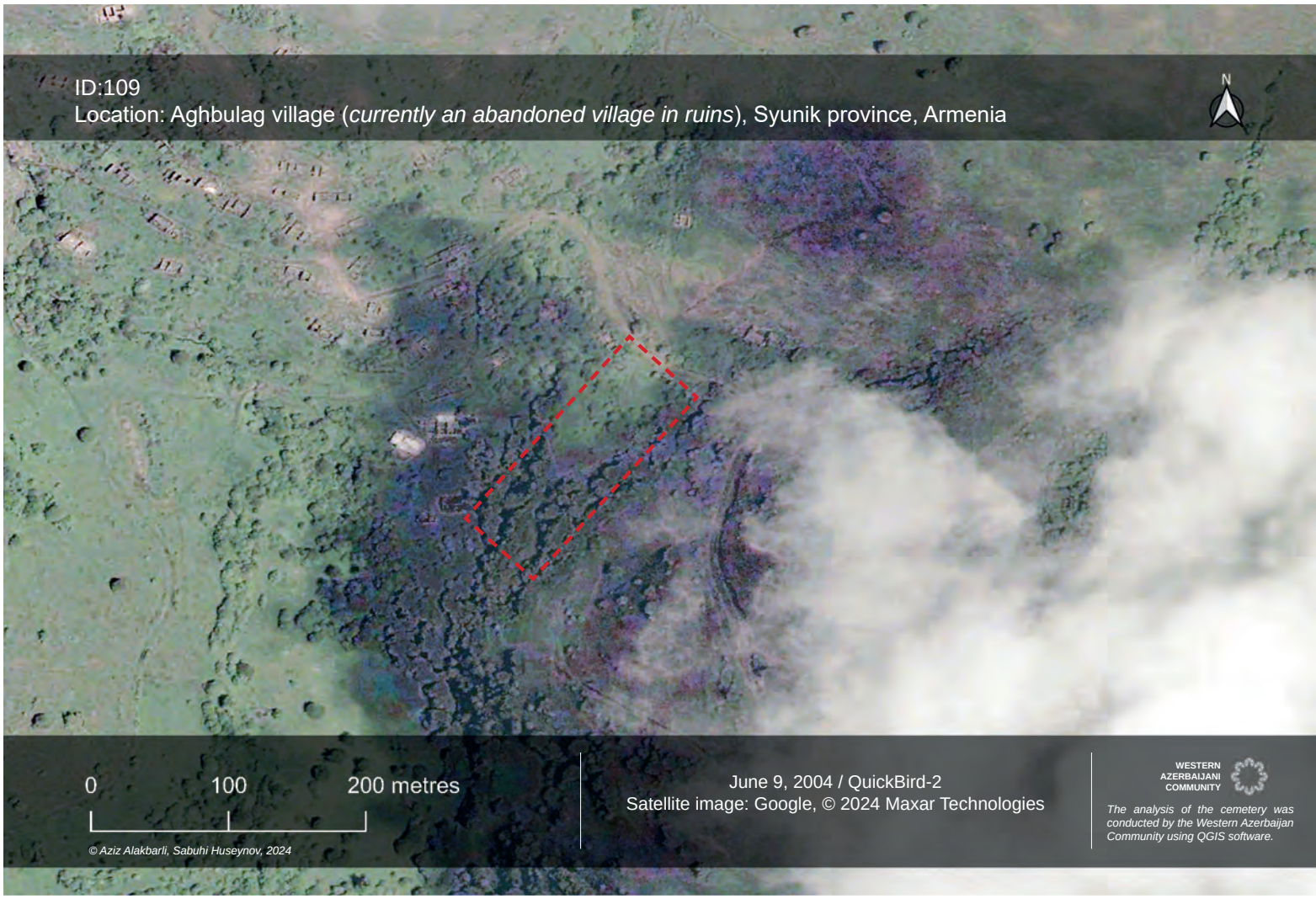
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the center of the village, southeast of the village school. This site has not been marked on any of the topographic maps examined by the authors in this research. Relying on witness testimony, the authors identified the cemetery in a 1980 Hexagon image and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
2. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), p.50
3. Musa Urud, *Zängezur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar, 2013), 34-35.
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 28-29.
5. *Ibid*.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 275.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006,* July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Esri Map.


ID:109
Location: Aghbulag village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID:109
Location: Aghbulag village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Gurdgulakh Village Cemetery

Location: Gorus district, Gurdgulakh village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vanand village (Armenian)
ID: 108 [MC-344], 39.341224, 46.431743

Gurdgulakh was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur *mahal* of Zangezur region, located at the foot of Kapaz mountain, on the left bank of the Kashin river, a right tributary of the Bazarchay river, within a forested area. It was incorporated into Gorus district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 19th century.[1] Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" and "Turks" in the official documents of the time, A.A., S.H.*). A number of sources also identify the village as '*Gurdgala*'. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 44 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the *Teymur Muskanli village commune*[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] From January 19 to 25, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During the Soviet era, after the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime in defiance of the will of the Azerbaijani people, 37 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gurdgulakh village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] On July 4, 2006, Gurdgulakh village was renamed Vanand.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 0.27-hectare area. During this period, the tombstones in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was protected by the village population, and the area was fenced.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 9, 2004[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, top right) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the abandoned cemetery was obliterated. The dense growth of vegetation in the area suggests that the destruction likely took place in the mid-1990s.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the eastern part of the village, on the right side of the road leading to *Chayzami* village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1952 (1:25,000 scale)[11] and 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

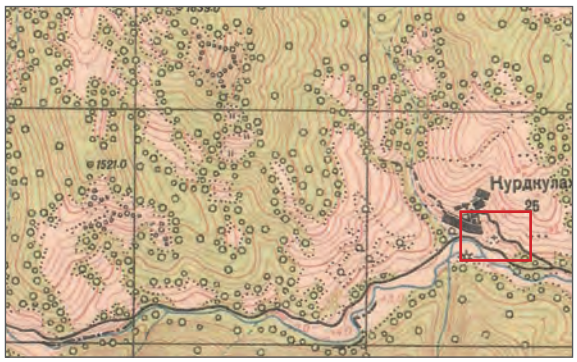
1. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 28-29.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 148.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50
5. 19-25 ocak 1920 tarihleri arasında ermeniler tarafından yaghmalanıp yıkılan Zangezur eyaletine ait musluman koyleri, January 25, 1920, Belge No: 99, in *Azerbayjan Belgelerinde Ermeni Sorunu (1918–1920)* (Ankara: Bashbakanlïk Devlet Arshivleri Genel Mudurlughu, 2001), 88, 661.
6. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny,* 28-29.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 276.
8. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 51
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-02*, June 09, 2004, Maxar.
11. Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, J-38-21-G-g (*Shurnukh*). [map], scale 1:25,000, 1952
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-21-G (*Shinuair*) [map], 1:50,000, 1974.

ID:108
Location: Gurdgulakh village (*present-day Vanand village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1952

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1952 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 2019 to 2022

Status: OBLITERATED

Shurnukhu Village Cemetery

Location: Gorus district, Shurnukhu village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Shurnukh village (Armenian)
ID: 107 [MC-351], 39.378922, 46.394129

Shurnukhu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur *mahal* of Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Shurnukhu river, within a forested area, near the villages of Aghbulag, Shamsiz, Shahverdiler, and Chayzami. It was incorporated into Gorus district on September 9, 1930. Half of the Shurnukh village is located within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, while the other half lies within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Historical sources mention the village as early as the late 19th century. Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" and "Turks" in the official documents of the time, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 104 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Teymur Muskanli village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] From January 19 to 25, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In the 1920s, 101 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6] Between 1948 and 1953, the residents of Shurnukhu were deported to the Kur-Araz lowland of the Azerbaijan SSR. However, a portion of the deported population was able to return to their native village. During the Soviet period, the village was renamed Shurnukh.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shurnukhu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 1-hectare area.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 9, 2004[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the abandoned cemetery became overgrown with trees and dense shrubbery, making it impossible to assess the condition of the tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated June 9, 2004, and September 17, 2019[10] (CNES/Airbus) indicated that tombstones were still present in the cemetery area as of the latter date. However, between September 2019 and May 2022[11], the destruction of tombstones within the cemetery began.

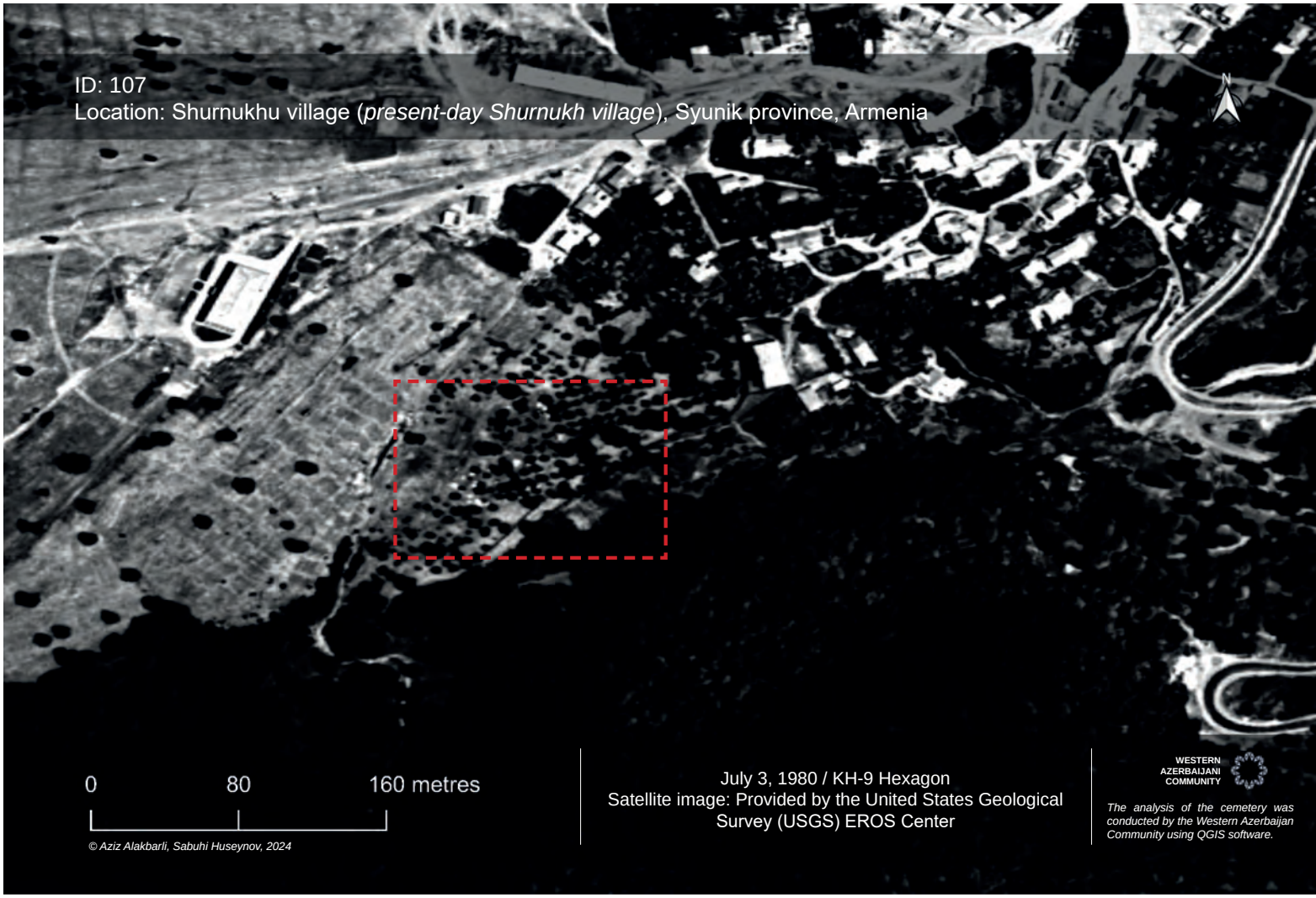
On August 18, 2023, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, visited the site of construction activities taking place on the territory of the Azerbaijani cemetery in Shurnukhu village.[12] In a video shared by Nikol Pashinyan, another section of the Azerbaijani cemetery was shown to him as the area designated for new construction (Images 1 and 2).

GEOLOCATION:

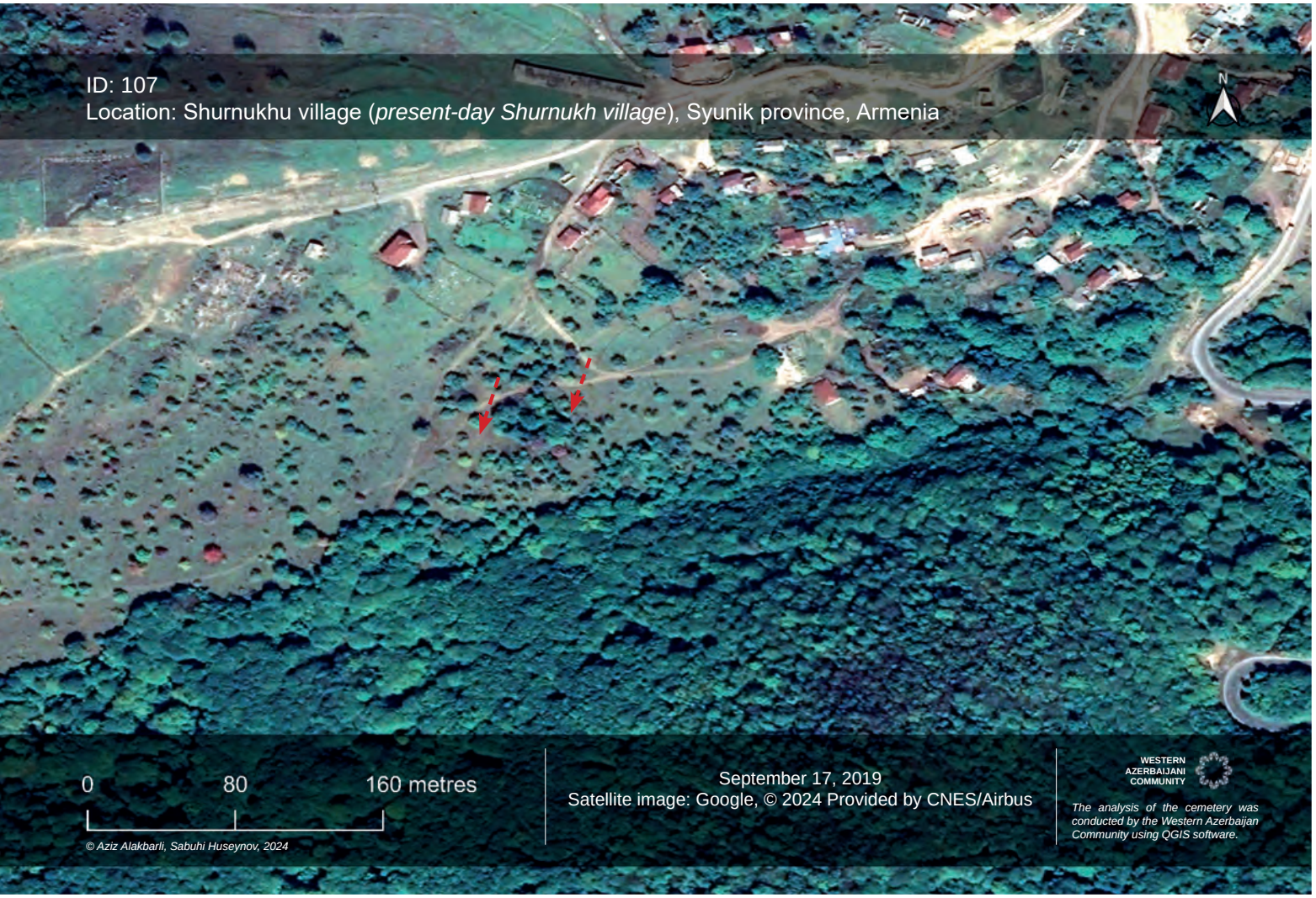
The cemetery is located in the southern part of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1952 (1:25,000 scale)[13], 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11], and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 212.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50
4. 19-25 ocak 1920 tarihleri arasında ermeniler tarafından yaghmalanıp yıkılan Zangezur eyaletine ait musluman koyleri, January 25, 1920, Belge No: 99, in *Azerbayjan Belgelerinde Ermeni Sorunu (1918–1920)* (Ankara: Bashbakanlïk Devlet Arshivleri Genel Mudurlughu, 2001), 88, 661.
5. *Zaven Korkotyan, Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 28-29.
6. Musa Urud, *Zängäzur* (Baku: Nurlar NPM, 2005), 317.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 274.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar.
10. *Spot 6*, September 17, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
11. May 30, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. https://www.facebook.com/nikol.pashinyan/videos/1960135514344873/?ref=embed_video&t=363
13. Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, J-38-21-G-g (*Shurnukh*). [map], scale 1:25,000, 1952
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-G (*Shinuair*) [map], 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21 (Goris) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 107
Location: Shurnukhu village (*present-day Shurnukh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 107
Location: Shurnukhu village (*present-day Shurnukh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

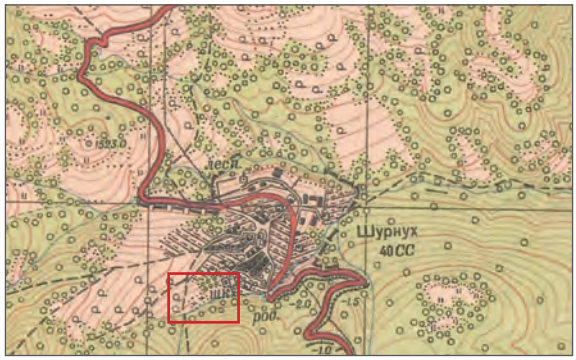

ID: 107
Location: Shurnukhu village (*present-day Shurnukh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 17, 2019
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 107
Location: Shurnukhu village (*present-day Shurnukh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 30, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1952

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1952 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

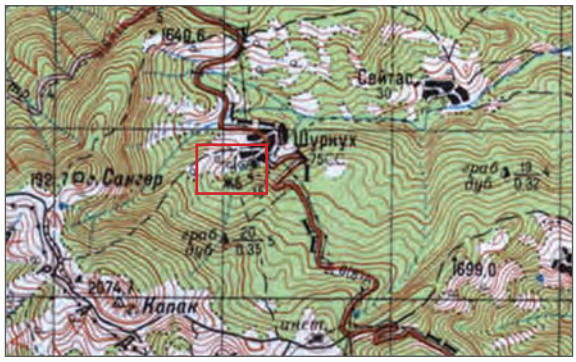


1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1975

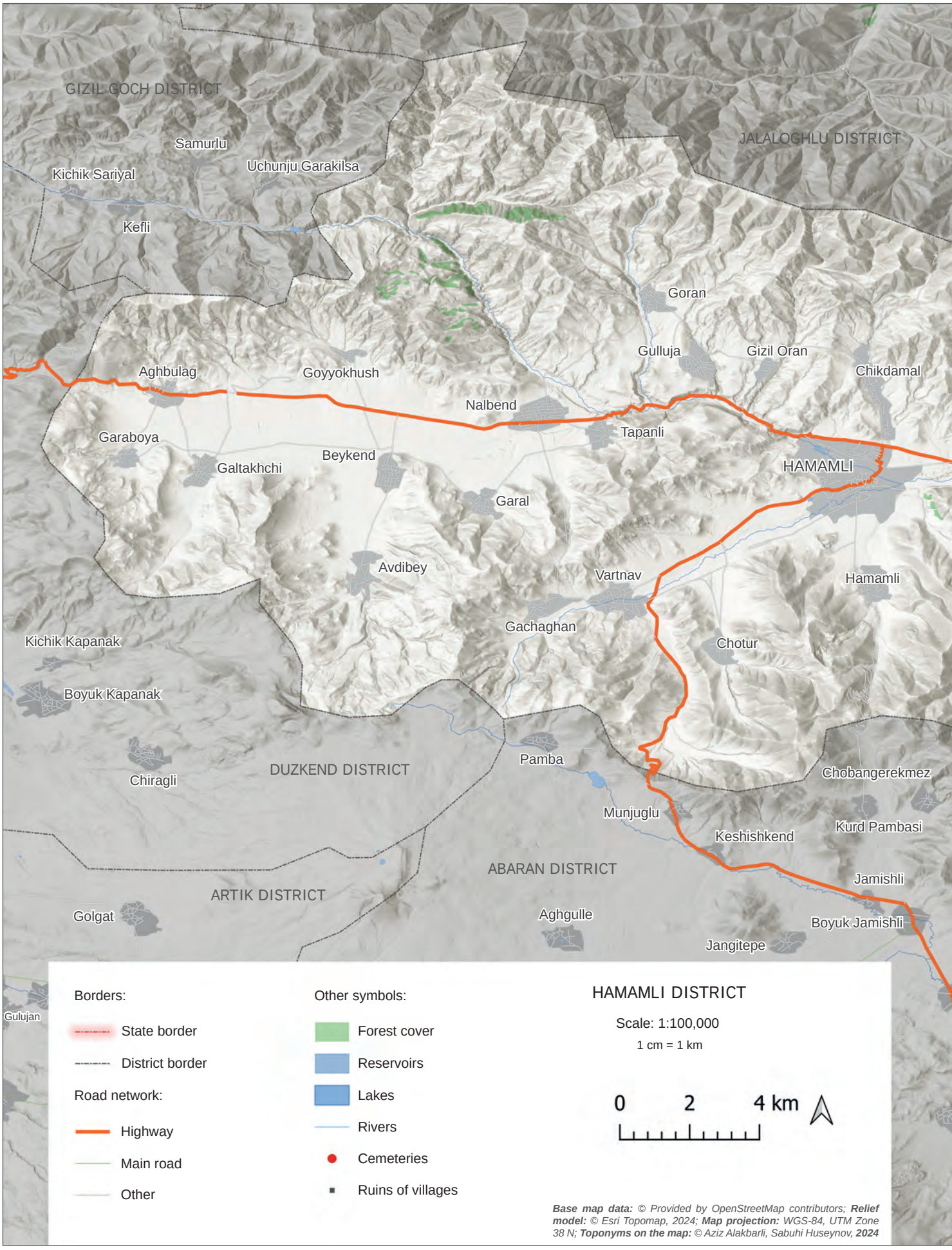
Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

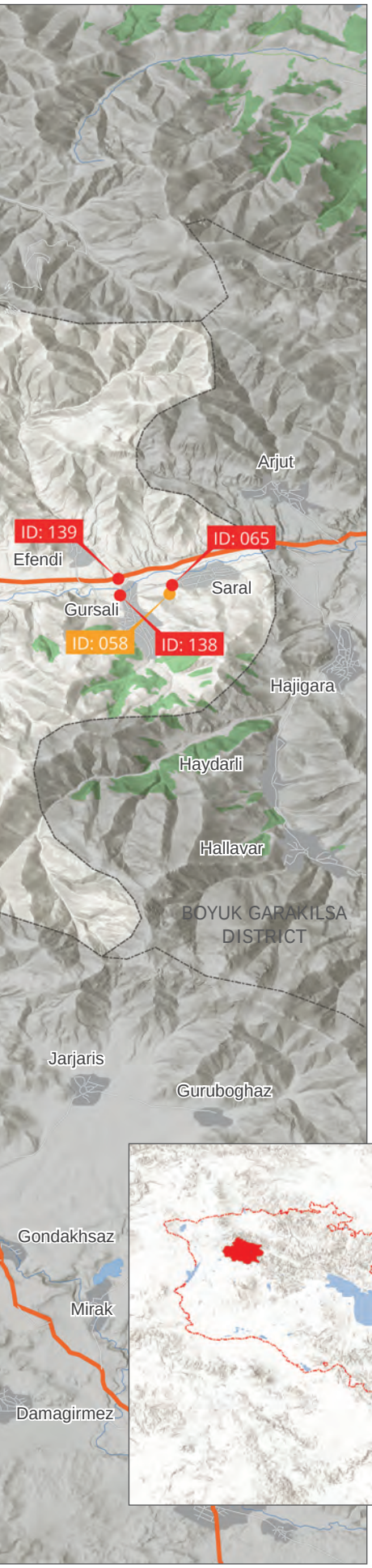


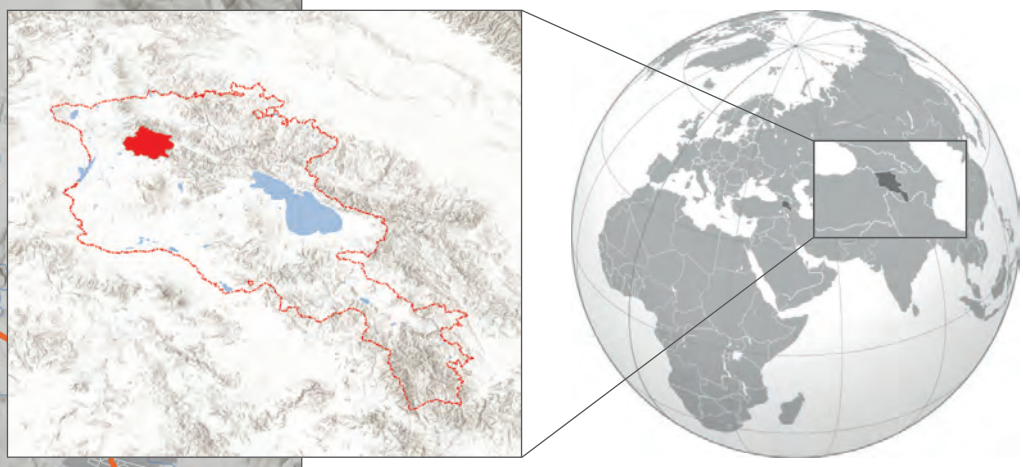
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE INSPECTION OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE CEMETERY SITE:

1

2


GIZIL GOCH DISTRICT
JALALOGHLU DISTRICT
Samurlu
Uchunju Garakilsa
Kichik Sariyal
Kefli
Goran
Gulluja
Gizil Oran
Chikdamal
Aghbulag
Goyyokhush
Nalbend
Tapanli
Garaboya
Beykend
Galtakhchi
HAMAMLI
Garal
Avdibey
Vartnav
Hamamli
Gachaghan
Chotur
Kichik Kapanak
Boyuk Kapanak
Pamba
DUZKEND DISTRICT
Chiragli
Chobangerekmez
Munjuglu
Kurd Pambasi
Keshishkend
ABARAN DISTRICT
Jamishli
ARTIK DISTRICT
Golgat
Aghgulle
Boyuk Jamishli
Jangitepe
Gulujan
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
HAMAMLI DISTRICT
Scale: 1:100,000
1 cm = 1 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024





HAMAMLI DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Pambak region.
Administrative designation: Hamamli district.
Establishment date: December 31, 1930.
Area: 596 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the city of Hamamli (*later renamed Spitak, A.A., S.H.*), a city under direct republican administration, located 101 km from the city of Iravan.

On September 26, 1949, Hamamli district was renamed Spitak district.

According to 1970 data, the district included 1 city of district subordination, 12 village councils, and 24 residential settlements. The district population was recorded as 43,000, with 12,000 residing in urban areas and 31,000 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Gursali, Saral, Gurtan, Aghbulag and Giziloran. While the first four villages were inhabited exclusively by Azerbaijanis, Giziloran was inhabited by both Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Lori province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Goy Mammad Medieval Cemetery

Location: Hamamli district, Gursali village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Arjahovit village (Armenian)
ID: 139 [MC-519], 40.837754, 44.332571

The Goy Mammad Cemetery was a medieval Azerbaijani cemetery located in the Pambak region, north of Gursali village, approximately 200 meters northwest of the left bank of the Pambak river. In 1967, two photographs of the cemetery were taken by Hungarian photographer Bojar Sándor (Images 1 and 2). In one of the photographs, a mausoleum is visible behind the tombstones.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated August 20, 1966[1] (at right, top) and KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[2] (at right, bottom) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. According to the analysis, located north of the Pambak river, near the highway, the cemetery spanned an area of 1.16 hectares, characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface—features typical of the region's cemeteries—owing to the presence of old tombstones. Two mausoleums were identified within the cemetery—one located at its center and the other approximately 35–38 meters to the east. The central mausoleum was found to be partially preserved, while the one to the east was intact; this was also confirmed in the photograph mentioned above.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated August 20, 1966, June 19, 1971, and March 26, 2011[3] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings revealed that the old cemetery located near Gursali village had been completely destroyed by 2011. Only the foundation of the mausoleum is visible in the image. Analysis of the image revealed that the entire cemetery area had been destroyed: the debris had been cleared with bulldozers, and the displaced stones were collected and piled in two locations—at the center and to the east (*This area covered approximately 0.23 hectares and was situated 2–3 meters higher than the surrounding terrain, A.A., S.H.*). The site was leveled and converted into agricultural land.

Satellite imagery dated 2024[4] (Airbus) confirmed the presence of mausoleum foundations on the mound where the remains had been gathered in the center. The cemetery area is currently used as farmland, and commercial facilities have been constructed along the section facing the highway (Images Nos. 3-5).

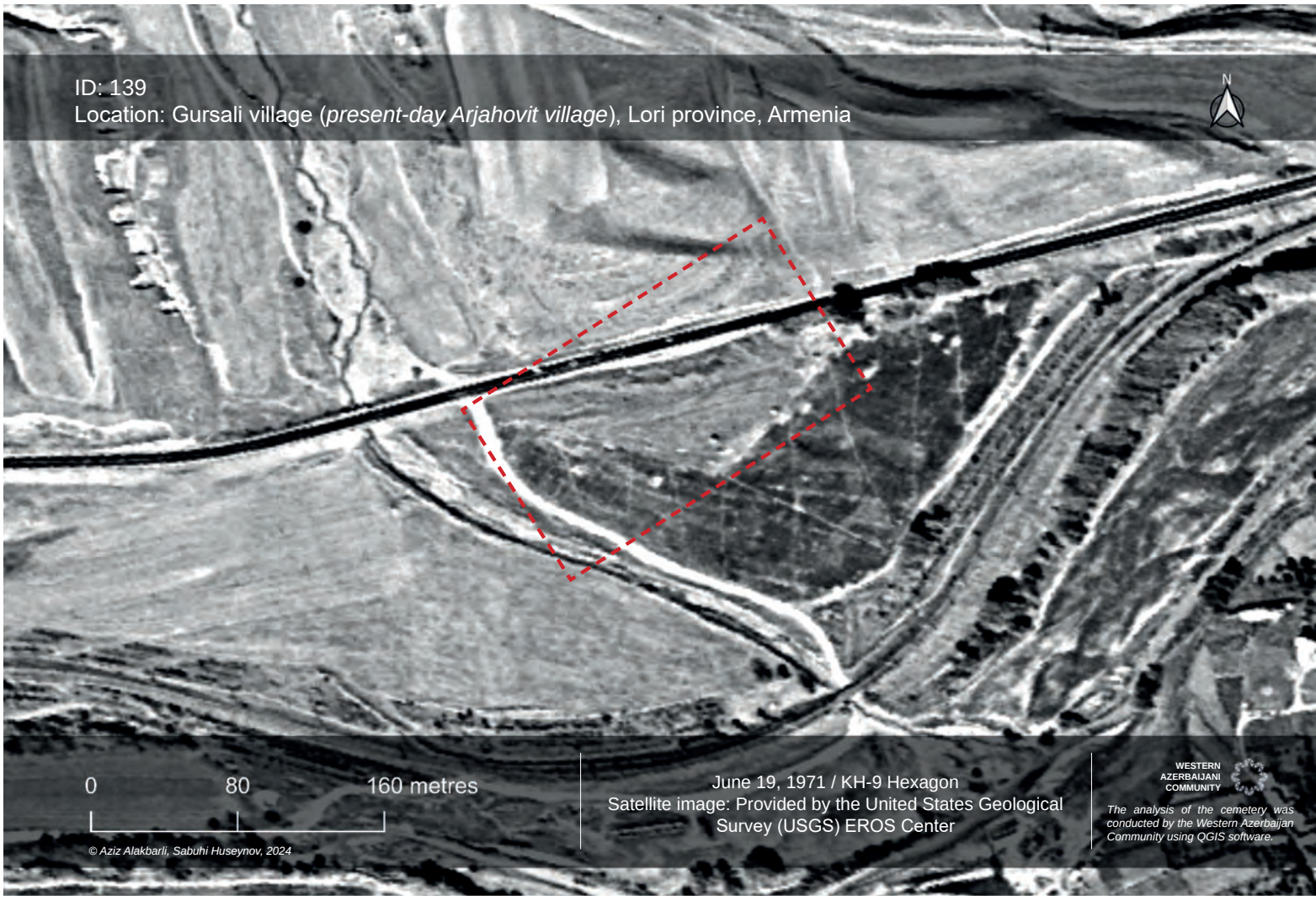
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the northern part of the village, on the left bank of the Pambak river, between the railway and the M3 highway. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[5]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1966 Gambit imagery and 1971 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *KH-7 Gambit, DZB00403100057H012001*, August 20, 1966, USGS EROS Data Center.
2. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
3. *WordView-2*, March 26, 2011, Maxar.
4. June 07, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
5. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-113-B (*Giulagark*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 139
Location: Gursali village (present-day Arjahovit village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 20, 1966 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 139
Location: Gursali village (present-day Arjahovit village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

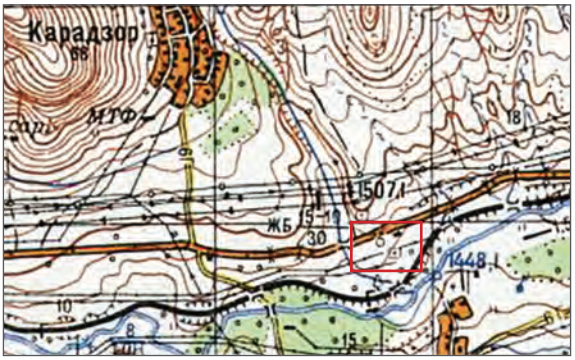
ID: 139
Location: Gursali village (*present-day Arjahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 26, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 139
Location: Gursali village (*present-day Arjahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 7, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

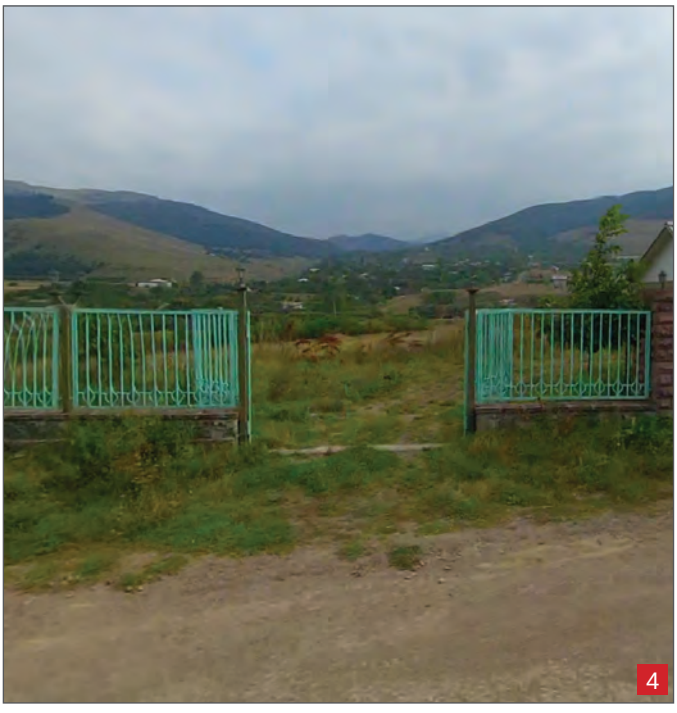
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

3


4

5

© Armenia360, 2018

From 1993 to 1994

Status: OBLITERATED

Gursali Village Cemetery

Location: Hamamli district, Gursali village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Arjahovit village (Armenian)
ID: 138 [MC-147], 40.8332872, 44.3330653

Gursali was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located near the Pambak river, at the foot of the Kamarli mountain. It was incorporated into Hamamli district on December 31, 1937, and later into Spitak district on September 26, 1949. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 824 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

Between 1918 and 1921, the village was subjected to Armenian attacks on seven separate occasions. In the spring of 1918, the population fled following an Armenian assault but returned after the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region. However, after the Ottoman forces withdrew from the region, the residents of Gursali were forced to flee in early 1919 to escape Armenian attacks.[2] In 1921, some 900 Azerbaijanis returned to the village.[3] The massacres committed against the Azerbaijani population continued even after their return, this time carried out by Armenians operating under the guise of Bolshevism.

During the Soviet period, the village was considered the largest Azerbaijani-populated settlement in the district. In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 3,349 Azerbaijani residents of Gursali village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[4] The village was renamed Arjahovit.

The cemetery is located in the northern part of the village. In 2007, an Armenian journalist named Naira Bulgadaryan, who examined the condition of the cemetery, reported that the village cemetery had not been disturbed and that nearly 1,000 tombstones made of basalt and tuff had been preserved.[5]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[6] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 2.75-hectare area in the north-northwestern part of the village. During this period, the tombstones in the cemetery were not subjected to any destruction or natural erosion; its integrity was preserved by the village population, with its northern side bordered by natural features and the other sides enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and March 26, 2011[7] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, 0.76 hectares of the cemetery area was obliterated. Fragments of tombstones were gathered in the northeastern part of the site. An analysis of NDVI vegetation indices derived from Landsat 5 satellite imagery revealed a sharp decline in vegetation between 1989 and 2005, indicating the occurrence of an event that hindered vegetation growth during that period. Based on this analysis, the authors infer that 0.76 hectares of the cemetery were destroyed as a result of earthmoving activities carried out during those years. The debris piled up as a result of earthmoving activities were also detected in the satellite imagery.[8]

A review of Armenian media from the same period shows that the destruction of cemeteries in the area, following the publication of Bulgadaryan's article, caused public outcry and led to restoration efforts. However, these efforts were limited to the remaining 0.84-hectare portion of the cemetery that had not been obliterated (Images Nos. 1-6).

In 2023, video footage of the fenced western section of the cemetery was circulated on social media, accompanied by claims that the Azerbaijani cemetery was being protected by Armenians.

Thus, while a portion of the cemetery area had been obliterated, public messaging—both domestically and internationally—sought to portray the site as fully restored and preserved. In reality, the restoration efforts were limited only to the part of the cemetery that had not been obliterated, and deliberate attempts were made to present a distorted picture of the situation. The severe destruction and acts of vandalism that took place between 1989 and 1998 have also been documented in video recordings from that period.

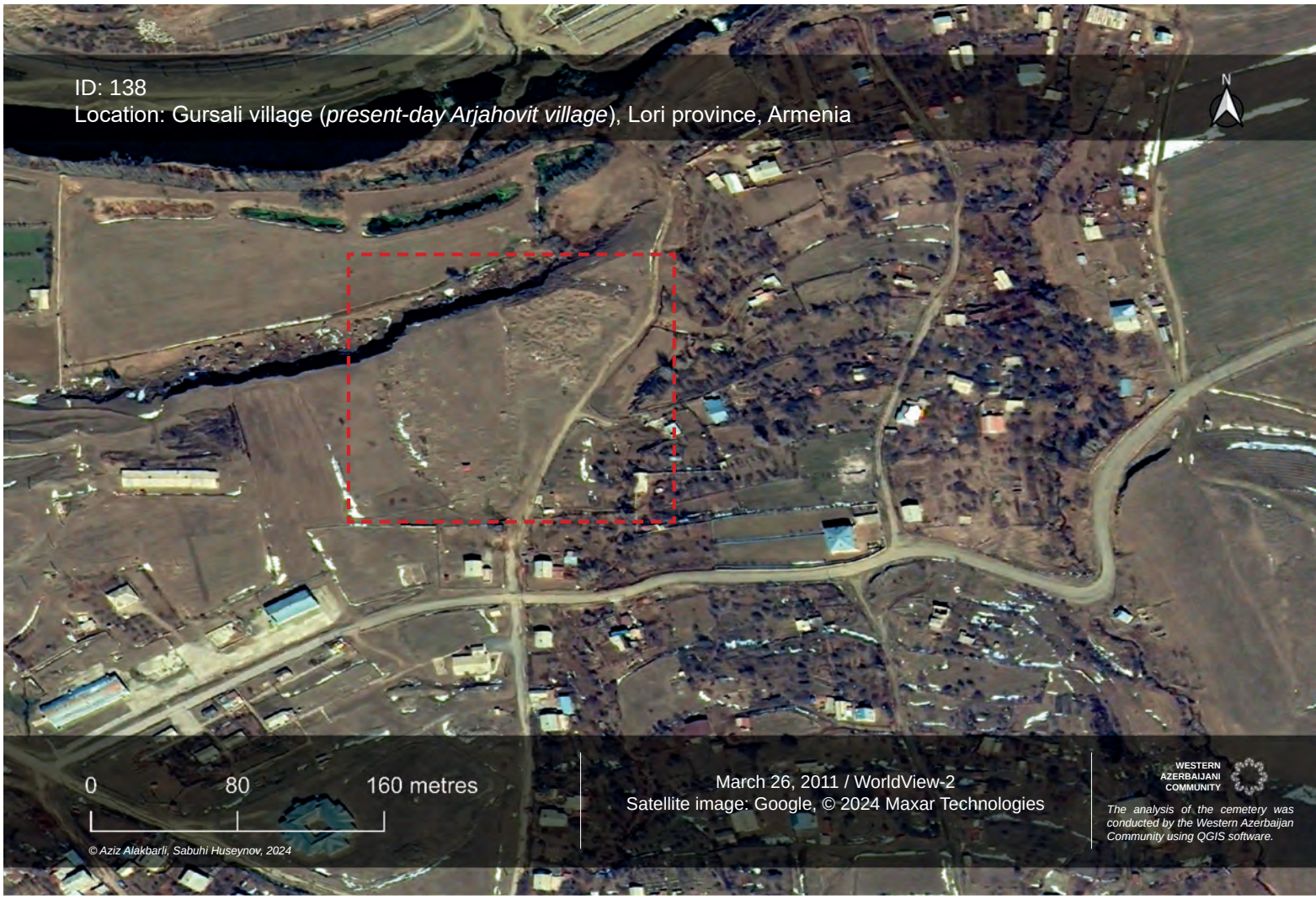
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the north-northwestern part of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[9]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1908 god,* ed. D. D. Pagireva (Tiflis: Tipografiia K. P. Kozlovskogo, 1909), 69
2. *Arshiv belgelerine gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni mezalimi, IV. jilt (1920-1922)* (Ankara: Osmanli Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 149.
3. *Ibid.*
4. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 157-158
5. Naira Bulghadaryan, Armenia: Sad Fate of Azeri Graves: Government won't fund restoration of Azerbaijani cemeteries, saying they do not have any intrinsic cultural value, *IWPR*, September 20, 2007.
6. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
7. *WorldView-2*, March 26, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
8. June 24, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-113-B (*Giulagark*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 138
Location: Gursali village (present-day Arjahovit village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

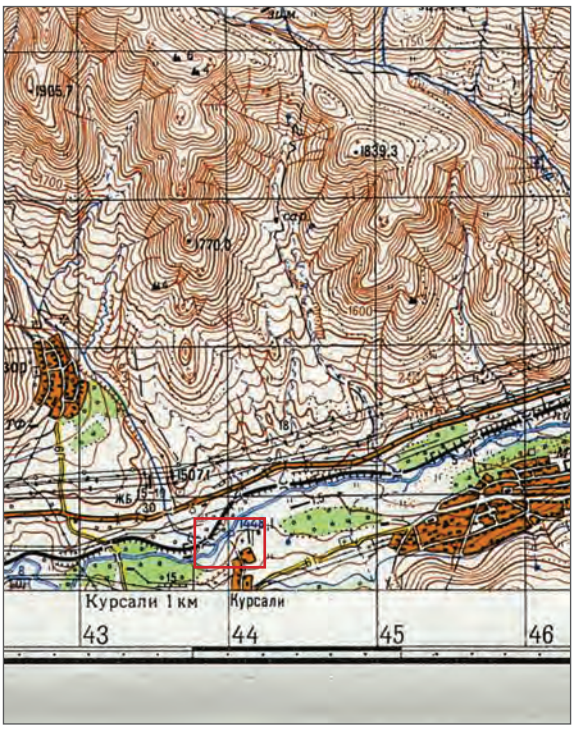

ID: 138
Location: Gursali village (present-day Arjahovit village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 26, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 138
Location: Gursali village (present-day Arjahovit village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 7, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



2022 PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

From 1989 to 2005

Status: OBLITERATED

Saral Village Old Cemetery

Location: Hamamli district, Saral village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Nor Khachakap village (Armenian)
ID: 065 [MC-090; MC-391], 40.8360595, 44.3470844

Saral was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located on the right bank of the Pambak river. It was incorporated into Hamamli district on December 31, 1937, and later into Spitak district on September 26, 1949. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1]

Between 1918 and 1921, Saral was subjected to Armenian attacks on seven occasions. In the spring of 1918, following another wave of assaults, the residents of Saral were forced to abandon their village. However, after the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, the population returned.[2] In the autumn of 1918, following the withdrawal of Ottoman forces from the region, the residents of Saral once again fled to escape renewed Armenian attacks, seeking refuge in the village of Garakhan, located in the Shorayel district of Kars province, *Kars uezd*. Armenians were settled in Saral. In February 1920, Garakhan village itself came under Armenian attack, and the Azerbaijani refugees from Saral were forced to flee once again, alongside the local population of Garakhan.[3] In 1921, 808 Azerbaijanis returned to Saral and began living alongside 32 Armenians who remained in the village at the time.[4] However, after a while, the Armenian residents relocated to other villages.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 1,856 Azerbaijani residents of Saral village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Saral village was renamed Nor Khachakap.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 1.76-hectare area in the western part of the village. Two additional small cemeteries were identified to the west and on the left side of the road running along the northern section of the main cemetery. One of these covered an area of 0.25 hectares, and the other 0.21 hectares.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and March 26, 2011[8] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the village cemetery was entirely obliterated. The destruction in these areas involved severe damage to tombstones and acts of vandalism. Remains of a partially preserved mausoleum were also identified in the eastern part of the site.

Video footage from the 2000s confirms that vandalism and destruction had led to obliteration (Images Nos. 1-6). In a 2007 article, Naira Bulgadaryan emphasized that the majority of the tombstones in the village cemetery had been broken.[9]

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated March 26, 2011, and September 25, 2016[10] (GeoEye-1) showed that no significant changes had occurred in the area during that period, indicating that the acts of vandalism had already ceased, and the remaining parts of the cemetery had remained stable.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated September 25, 2016, and June 30, 2023[11] (Airbus) confirmed that no changes had taken place in the area, further proving that the cemetery had been entirely obliterated as a result of earlier vandalism and that the situation had remained stable.

Thus, the main cemetery and the two additional smaller cemeteries to its north were subjected to extensive destruction and vandalism after 1989 and had been obliterated by 2011. Post-2011 satellite imagery shows no further changes to the site, confirming that the cemetery had been entirely destroyed as a result of vandalism, and the situation remained unchanged since.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the west of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Tiflis əyalətinin mufəssəl dəftəri: Borchalï və Qazakh (1728),* pref., trans., and comm. by Shahin. Mustafayev, 2nd ed. (Baku: Elm, 2022), 36.
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4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 132-133.
5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 160.
6. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir, no. 7 (987), 15 Aprili 1991, Yerevan,* 34.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, March 26, 2011, Maxar via Esri Map.
9. Naira Bulghadaryan, Armenia: Sad Fate of Azeri Graves: Government won't fund restoration of Azerbaijani cemeteries, saying they do not have any intrinsic cultural value,*IWPR*, September 20, 2007.
10. *GeoEye-1*, September 25, 2016, Maxar via Google Map.
11. June 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-113-B (*Giulagark*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 065
Location: Saral village (*present-day Nor Khachakap village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 065
Location: Saral village (*present-day Nor Khachakap village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 26, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

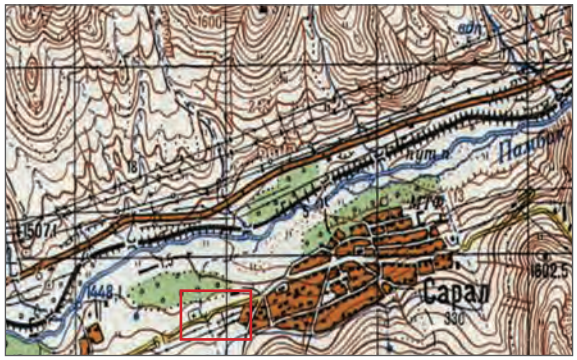
ID: 065
Location: Saral village (*present-day Nor Khachakap village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 25, 2016 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 065
Location: Saral village (*present-day Nor Khachakap village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

Still frames from video footage recorded in the 2000

From 1989 to 2005

Status: DESTROYED

Saral Village New Cemetery

Location: Hamamli district, Saral village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Nor Khachakap village (Armenian)
ID: 058 [MC-095], 40.833692, 44.346359

Saral was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Pambak region, located on the right bank of the Pambak river. It was incorporated into Hamamli district on December 31, 1937, and later into Spitak district on September 26, 1949. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1]

Between 1918 and 1921, Saral was subjected to Armenian attacks on seven occasions. In the spring of 1918, following another wave of assaults, the residents of Saral were forced to abandon their village. However, after the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, the population returned.[2] In the autumn of 1918, following the withdrawal of Ottoman forces from the region, the residents of Saral once again fled to escape renewed Armenian attacks, seeking refuge in the village of Garakhan, located in the Shorayel district of Kars province, *Kars uezd*. Armenians were settled in Saral. In February 1920, Garakhan village itself came under Armenian attack, and the Azerbaijani refugees from Saral were forced to flee once again, alongside the local population of Garakhan.[3] In 1921, 808 Azerbaijanis returned to Saral and began living alongside 32 Armenians who remained in the village at the time.[4] However, after a while, the Armenian residents relocated to other villages.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, 1,856 Azerbaijani residents of Saral village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Saral village was renamed Nor Khachakap.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Of the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1970, 1980, and 1983[7] used for spatial analysis, the cemetery was identifiable only in the latest image. This indicates that the cemetery was established between 1980 and 1983. Spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon imagery dated October 10, 1983 (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, with tombstones identified over an area of 0.31 hectares to the west of the village.

Following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the cemetery was subjected to severe acts of vandalism, and all tombstones were shattered.

In 2005 and 2006, restoration work was carried out at this cemetery by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly. The authors analyzed video footage from the restoration period along with photographs taken afterward, demonstrating that the vandalism and destruction had led to extremely severe and lasting consequences. Specifically, the tombstones were not only subjected to vandalism but were also heavily looted (Images Nos. 1-9). In 2007, Naira Bulgadaryan reported that the majority of the tombstones in the cemetery had been shattered following the displacement of the Azerbaijani population from the village. One particularly noteworthy detail in her article was the account of an Armenian resident named Surik Truzian, who had settled in the village after 1989. Recalling the acts of vandalism that took place in the cemetery, Surik Truzian stated that individuals who had come from other parts of Armenia loaded Azerbaijani tombstones onto vehicles, taking them away to be reused or sold.[8]

Analysis of satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983, and March 26, 2011[9] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) indicates that not all of the tombstones were restored. This was the result of the extensive looting that had taken place at the cemetery.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and June 7, 2024[10] (Airbus) confirmed that no changes had occurred in the area and that the site remained in the same state.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 160 meters southwest of the main cemetery in the western part of the village, on the foothill terrain. It has not been marked on topographic maps published prior to 1983, which indicates that the cemetery was established after those maps were issued. The authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 160.
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9. *WorldView-2*, March 26, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. June 07, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.

ID: 058
Location: Saral village (*present-day Nor Khachakap village*), Lori province, Armeni
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 058
Location: Saral village (*present-day Nor Khachakap village*), Lori province, Armeni
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 26, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 058
Location: Saral village (present-day Nor Khachakap village), Lori province, Armeni
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 7, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

4

5

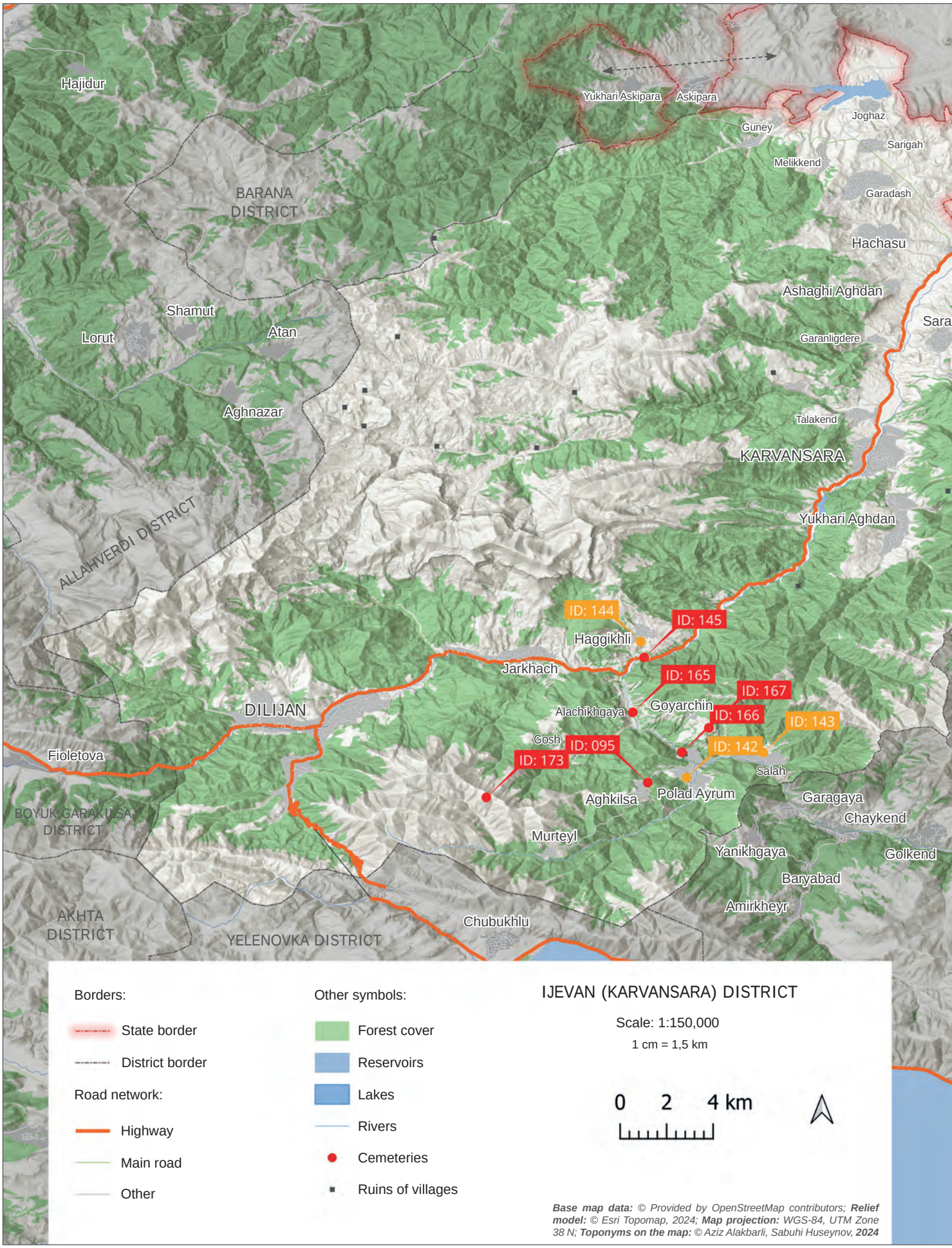
6

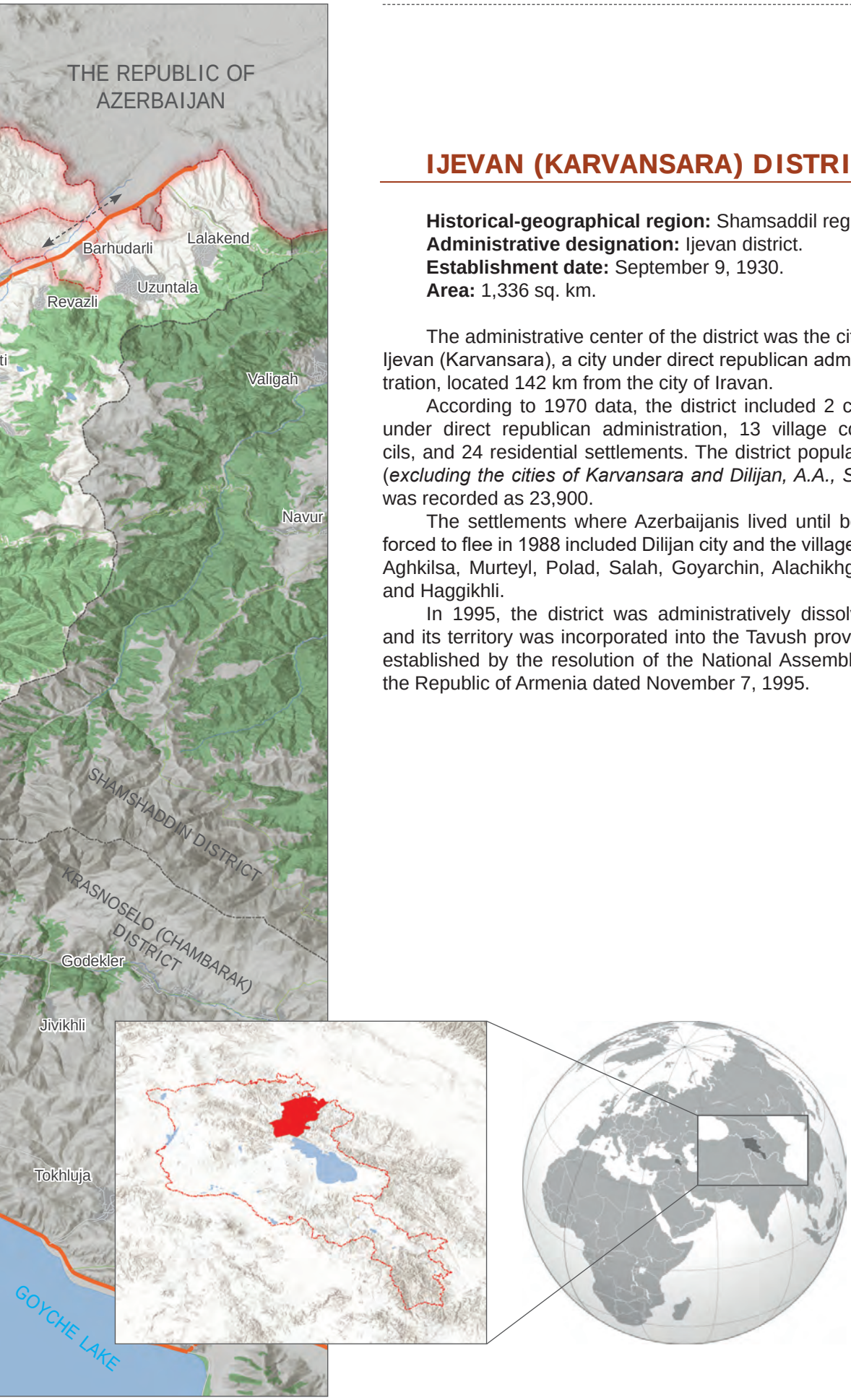
7

8

9

Post-restoration photographs of the cemetery site


Hajidur
Yukhari Askipara
Askipara
Joghaz
Guney
Sarigah
Melikkend
Garadash
BARANA DISTRICT
Hachasu
Ashaghi Aghdan
Shamut
Lorut
Atan
Garanligdere
Aghnazar
Talakend
KARVANSARA
ALLAHVERDI DISTRICT
Yukhari Aghdan
ID: 144
ID: 145
Haggikhli
Jarkhach
ID: 165
ID: 167
DILIJAN
Alachikhgaya
Goyarchin
ID: 166
ID: 143
Gosh
ID: 095
ID: 142
Fioletova
ID: 173
Salah
Aghkilsa
Polad Ayrum
Garagaya
BOYUK GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Chaykend
Murteyl
Yanikhgaya
Golkend
Baryabad
Amirkheyr
AKHTA DISTRICT
Chubukhlu
YELENOVKA DISTRICT
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
IJEVAN (KARVANSARA) DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



IJEVAN (KARVANSARA) DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Shamsaddil region.
Administrative designation: Ijevan district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 1,336 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the city of Ijevan (Karvansara), a city under direct republican administration, located 142 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1970 data, the district included 2 cities under direct republican administration, 13 village councils, and 24 residential settlements. The district population (*excluding the cities of Karvansara and Dilijan, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 23,900.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included Dilijan city and the villages of Aghkilsa, Murteyl, Polad, Salah, Goyarchin, Alachikhgaya and Haggikhli.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Tavush province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghkilsa Village Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Aghkilsa village (Azerbaijani) / Gegharkunik province, Chermakavan village (Armenian)
ID: 095 [MC-331], 40.711908, 45.032831

Aghkilsa was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Garagoyunlu valley, northwest of Polad Ayrum village. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources first mentioned the village in the early 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*).

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] In late April 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[3] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Aghkilsa within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 132 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, all Azerbaijani residents of Aghkilsa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Aghkilsa village was renamed Chermakavan.[7] The village was burned down by Armenians and reduced to ruins (Images Nos. 1-4).

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 0.36-hectare area. The area was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and 2007[9] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings revealed extensive destruction within the cemetery site. Piles of tombstone debris remained visible on the site as of this date.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 and 2023[10] (Airbus) determined that by the latter date, even the remaining stone remnants in the area had been cleared or disappeared.

Thus, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village, the cemetery was severely damaged, and the majority of its tombstones were destroyed. As a result of a destruction process that continued as of 2023, the tombstones were completely removed. In the satellite imagery dated 2023, the authors were able to identify only a few scattered fragments resembling tombstone remnants.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located northeast of the village, on the eastern slope of a high hill. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 41.
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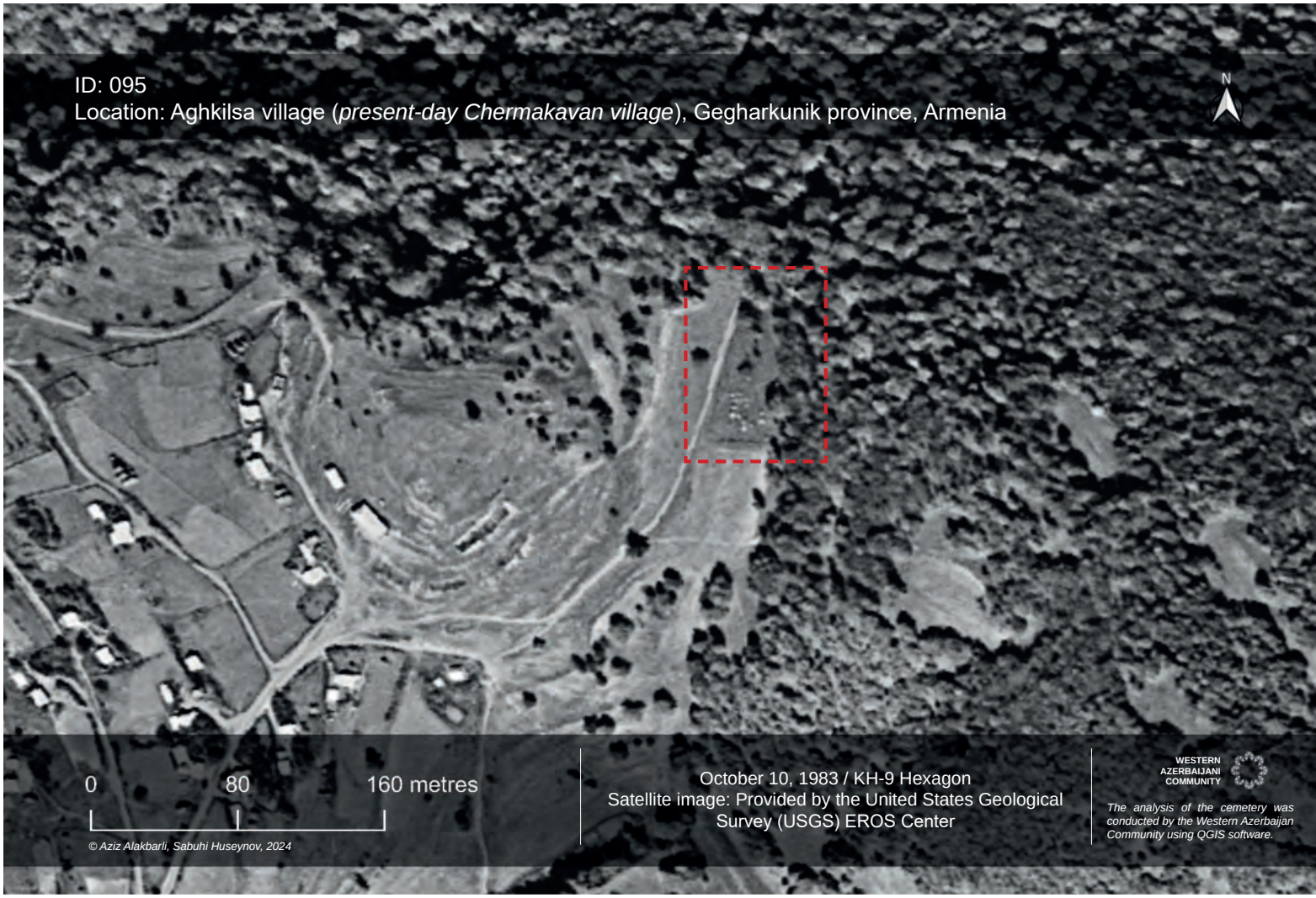
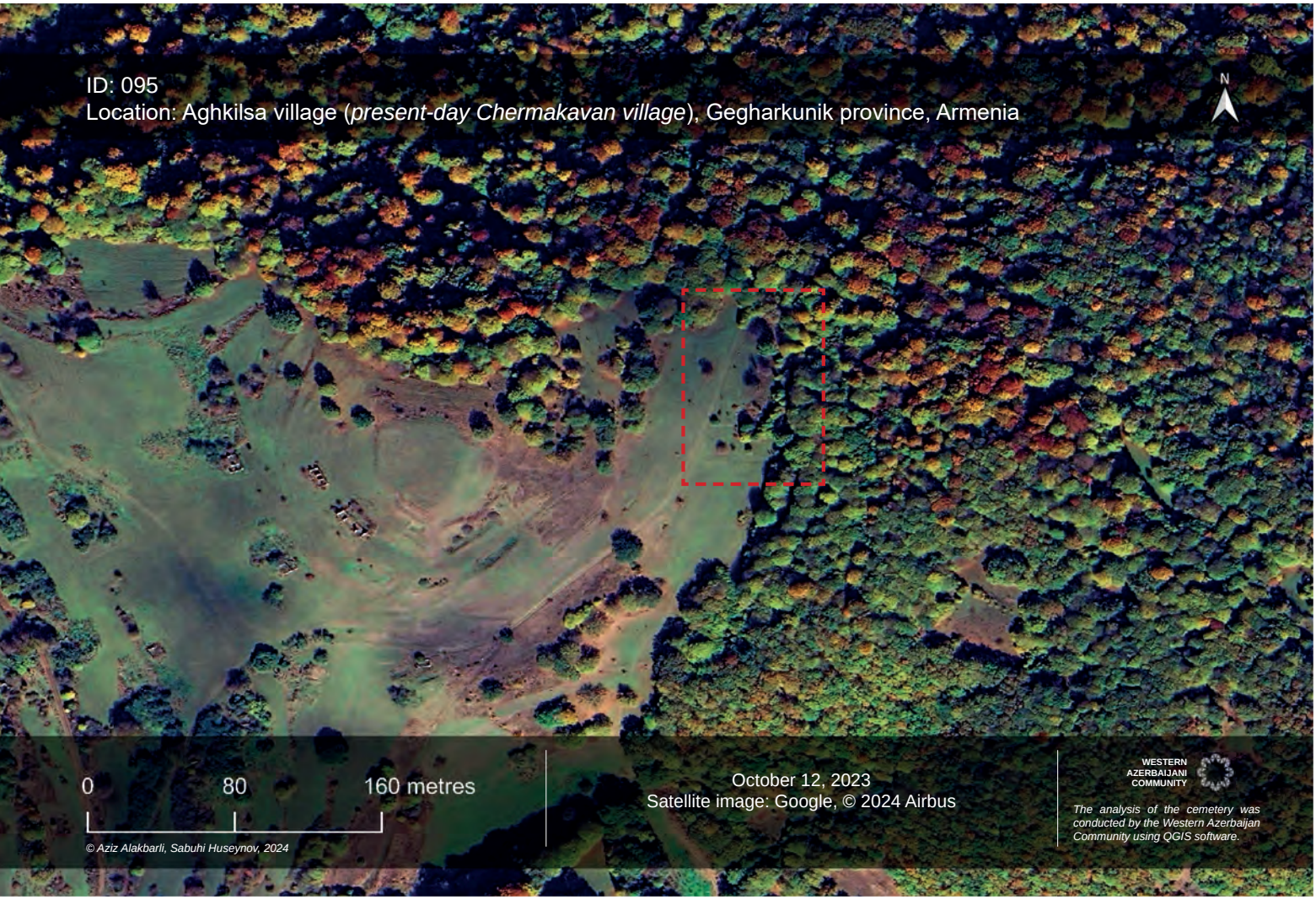
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qädim Turk–Oghuz yurdu "Ermänistan"*, (Baku: Sabah, 1994), 172-177.
7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007. CNES/Airbus via Esri Map.
10. October 12, 2023. Airbus via Google Earth.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.


ID: 095
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Chermakavan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

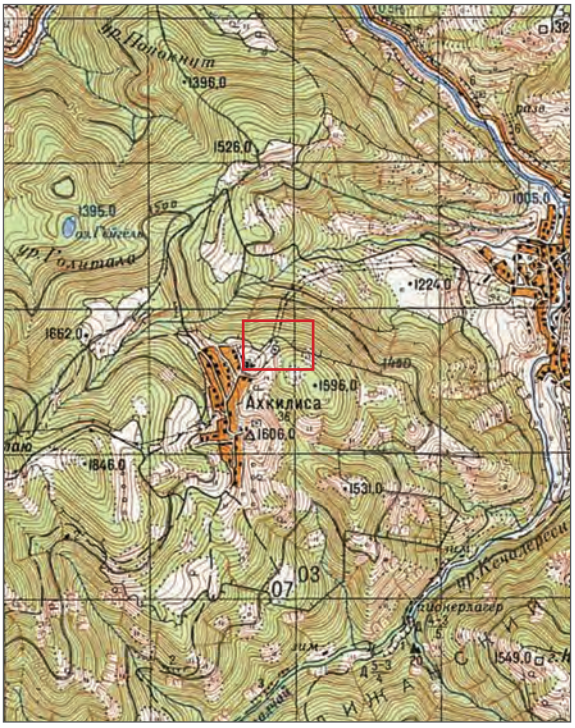
ID: 095
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Chermakavan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 095
Location: Aghkilsa village (*present-day Chermakavan village*), Gegharkunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 12, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

Google © 2024, Roland Yeghiazaryan

From 1997 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Alachikhgaya Village Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Alachikhgaya village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Alachukh village (Armenian)
ID: 165 [MC-534], 40.747571, 45.025257

Alachikhgaya was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Garagoyunlu valley, along the downstream section of the Tarsa river, near Dilijan. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. Statistical records mention the village as early as the late 19th century. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('K*avkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 116 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its 166 inhabitants to flee. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Alachikhgaya within its new administrative boundaries.[4] In 1921, 97 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5] The village was renamed Alachukh.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, 154 Azerbaijani residents of Alachikhgaya village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery, revealing tombstones across a 0.5-hectare area on the left bank of the river, in the center of the village.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 24, 2013[8] (WorldView-2) (at right, top) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Analysis indicates that following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the village cemetery was completely destroyed. All tombstones and associated structures were removed, and the site was repurposed as the yard of a residential property. This clearly demonstrates the construction of houses over the cemetery and the deliberate clearing of tombstones from the site.

NDVI values derived from Landsat 5 satellite imagery for the years 1989 to 2005 reflect changes in the area's vegetation cover. A sharp decline in NDVI values between 1997 and 2000 indicates that events occurred during this period that hindered vegetation growth. This may reflect the gradual destruction of the cemetery and subsequent use of the land for other purposes. Activities carried out during this time disrupted the natural development of vegetation and led to its reduction.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the center of the village, along the bank of the Tarsa river. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[9] and 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[10]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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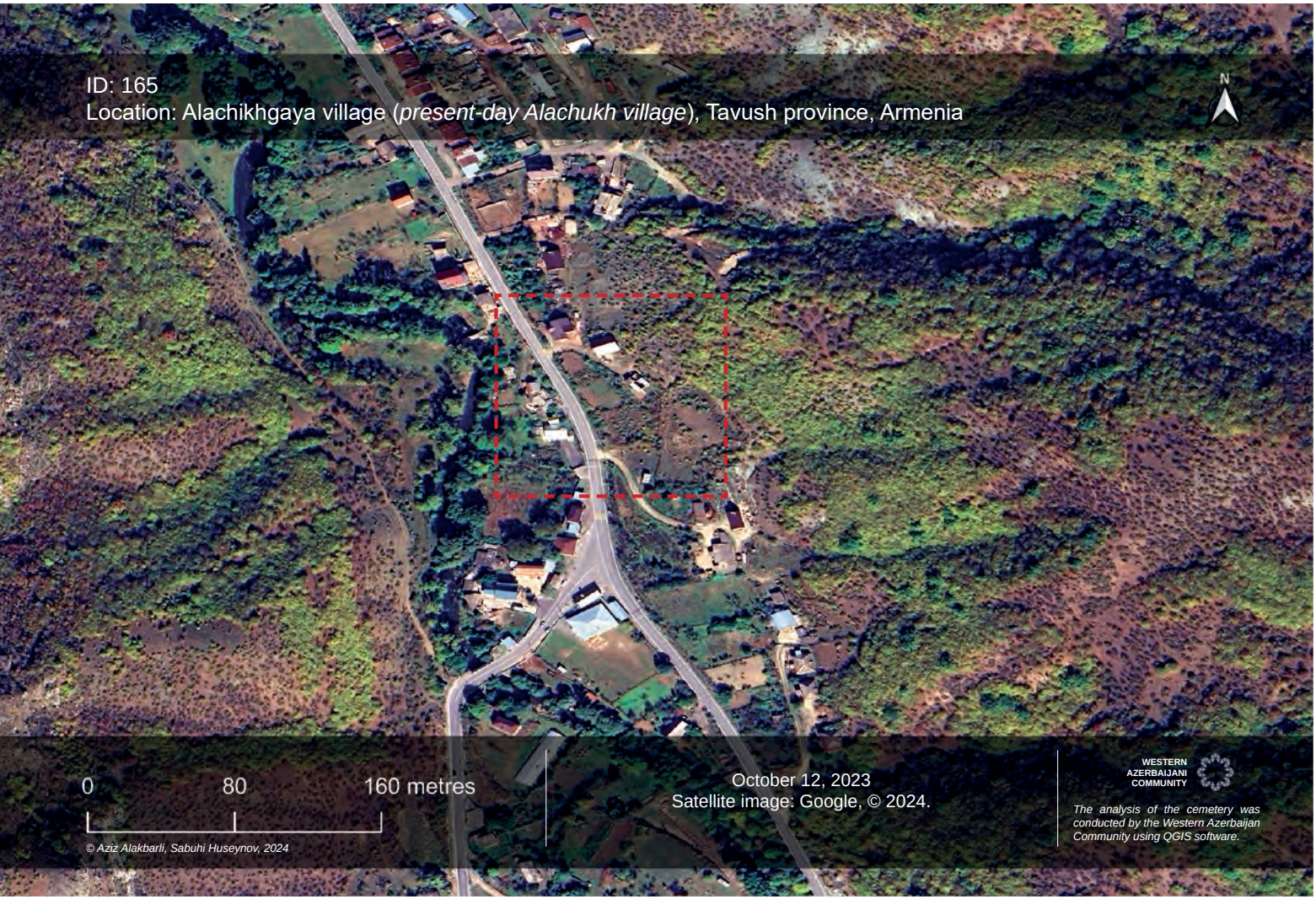
4. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929),75-76.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 202.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, June 24, 2013, Maxar via Esri Map.
9. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-35 (*Delizhan*) [map], 1:42,000,1931.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 165
Location: Alachikhgaya village (present-day Alachukh village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

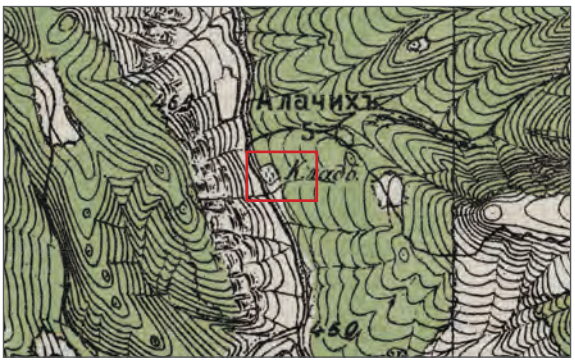
ID: 165
Location: Alachikhgaya village (present-day Alachukh village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 24, 2013 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 165
Location: Alachikhgaya village (*present-day Alachukh village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 12, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

Google © 2024

From 1989 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Ganli Yal Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Ganli Yal Summer Pasture (Azerbaijani) / Tavush Province, Ganli Yal Summer Pasture (Armenian)
ID: 137 [MC-518], 40.704377, 44.950911

The Ganli Yal Cemetery was one of the historic cemeteries located in the summer pastures traditionally belonging to Azerbaijanis in the territories of Western Azerbaijan. Ganli Yal also served as a summer pasture for the residents of II Shikhli village of Gazakh district up until the mid-20th century. As the population of II Shikhli had previously lived a semi-nomadic herder lifestyle, they would spend the summer months in this area and return to their winter quarters in present-day territory of II Shikhli. Two Muslim cemeteries existed in this summer pasture on Maymag mountain, one of which was known as Ganli Yal Cemetery.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Several satellite images of the cemetery site, taken by Hexagon satellites, are available in the *USGS EROS archive*. One such image is the KH-9 Hexagon satellite image dated August 29, 1982.[1] After integrating the image into the GIS system, the authors were able to identify the location of Ganli Yal Cemetery. In 1982, the cemetery covered an area of more than 3.08 hectares. High-resolution satellite imagery, specifically the GeoEye-1 imagery dated May 24, 2021,[2] and the Airbus imagery dated October 27, 2021,[3] confirms that the ruins of the cemetery have survived to the present day. The primary reason the cemetery has endured, albeit in a ruined state, was its remote location in high mountains with limited road access. Recent photographs of the site were taken by a photographer named Enduro Dilijan while visiting Maymag mountain. The images show that none of the tombstones bear epigraphic inscriptions.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located on Maymag mountain, 7 kilometers west of Aghkilsa village, at an elevation of 2,298 meters above sea level. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1926 (scale 1:210,000)[4], 1931 (1:210,000)[5], 1931 (1:42,000)[6], 1933 (1:210,000)[7], 1936 (1:210,000)[8], 1940 (1:210,000)[9], and 1941 (1:210,000)[10]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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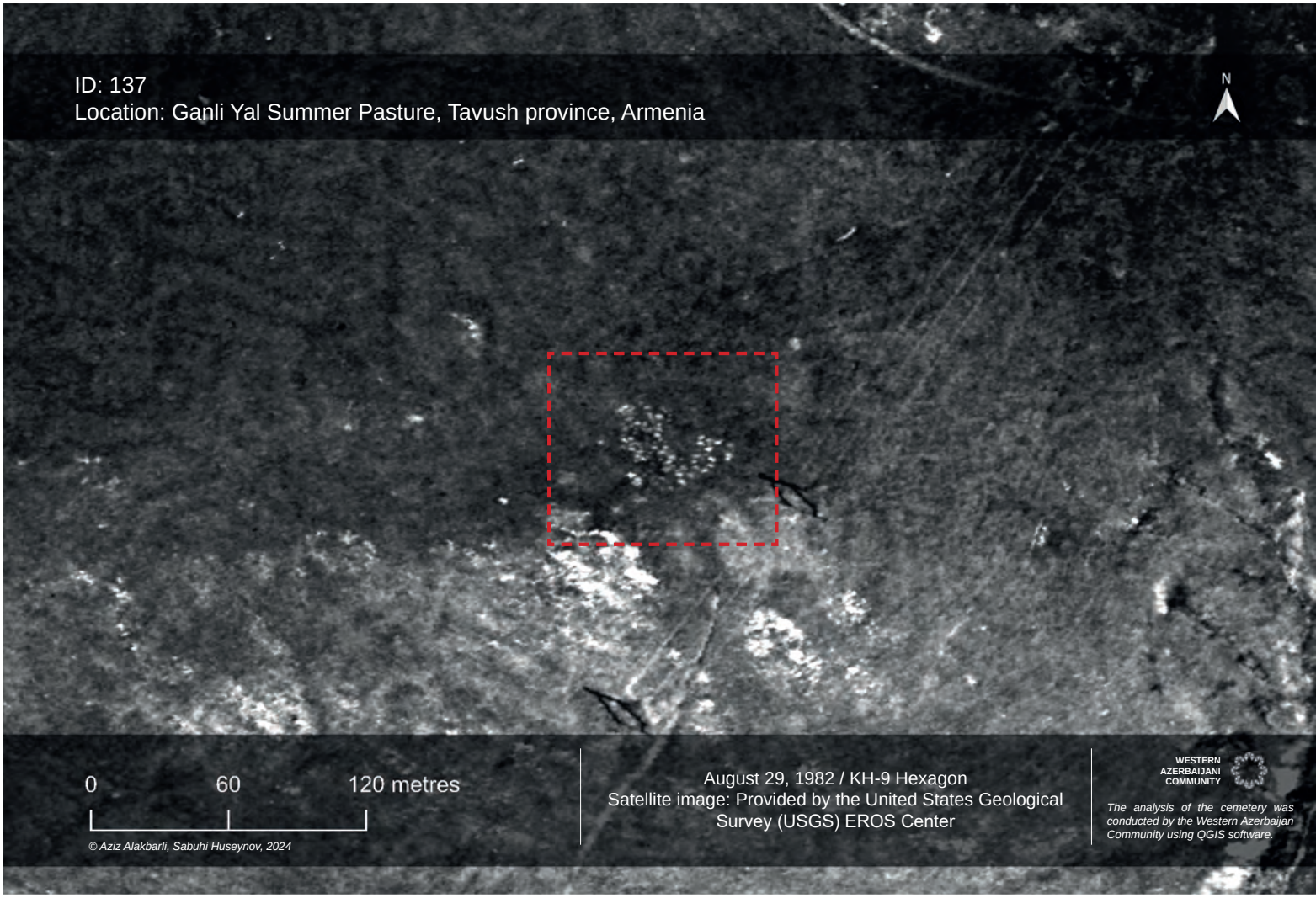
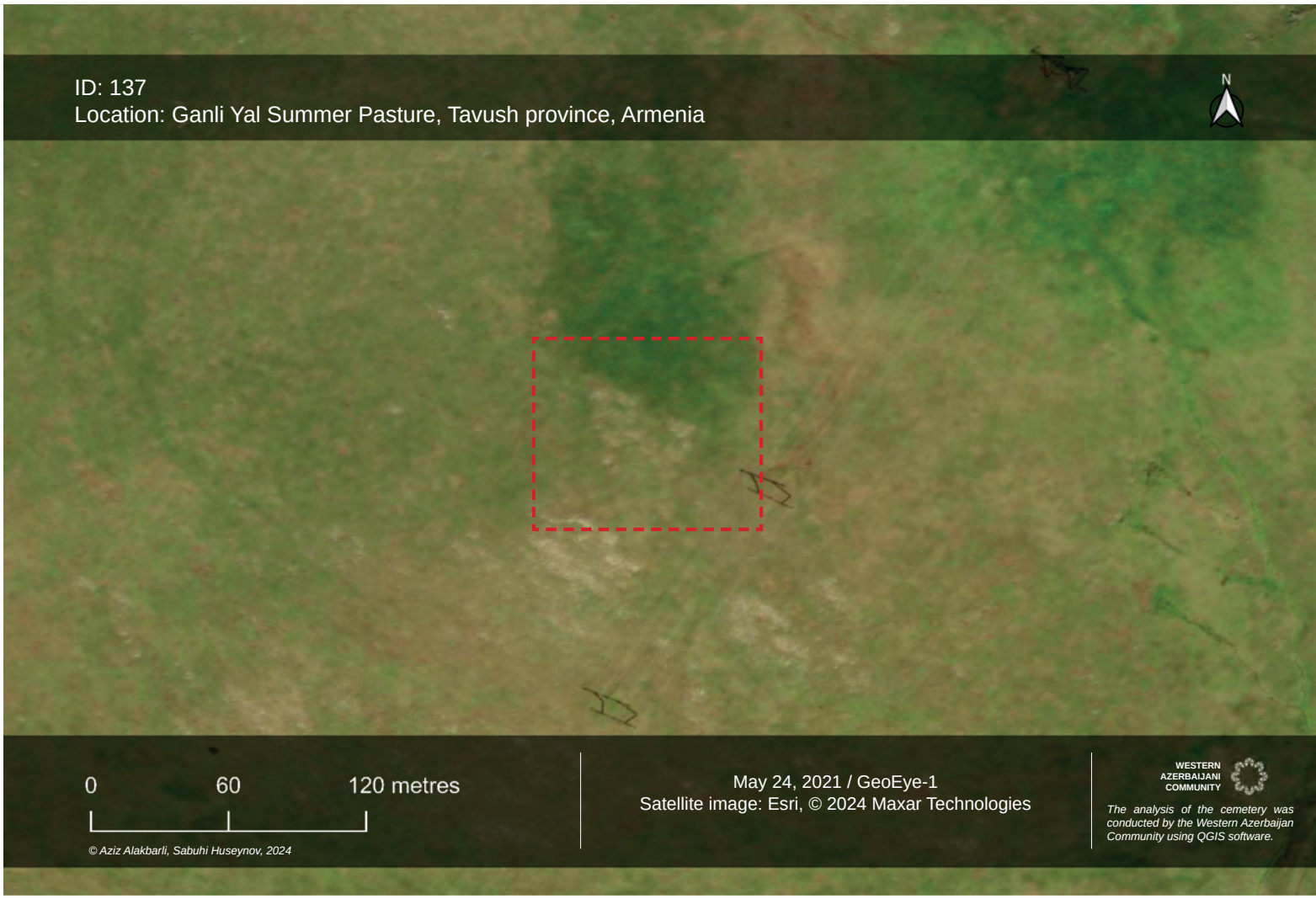
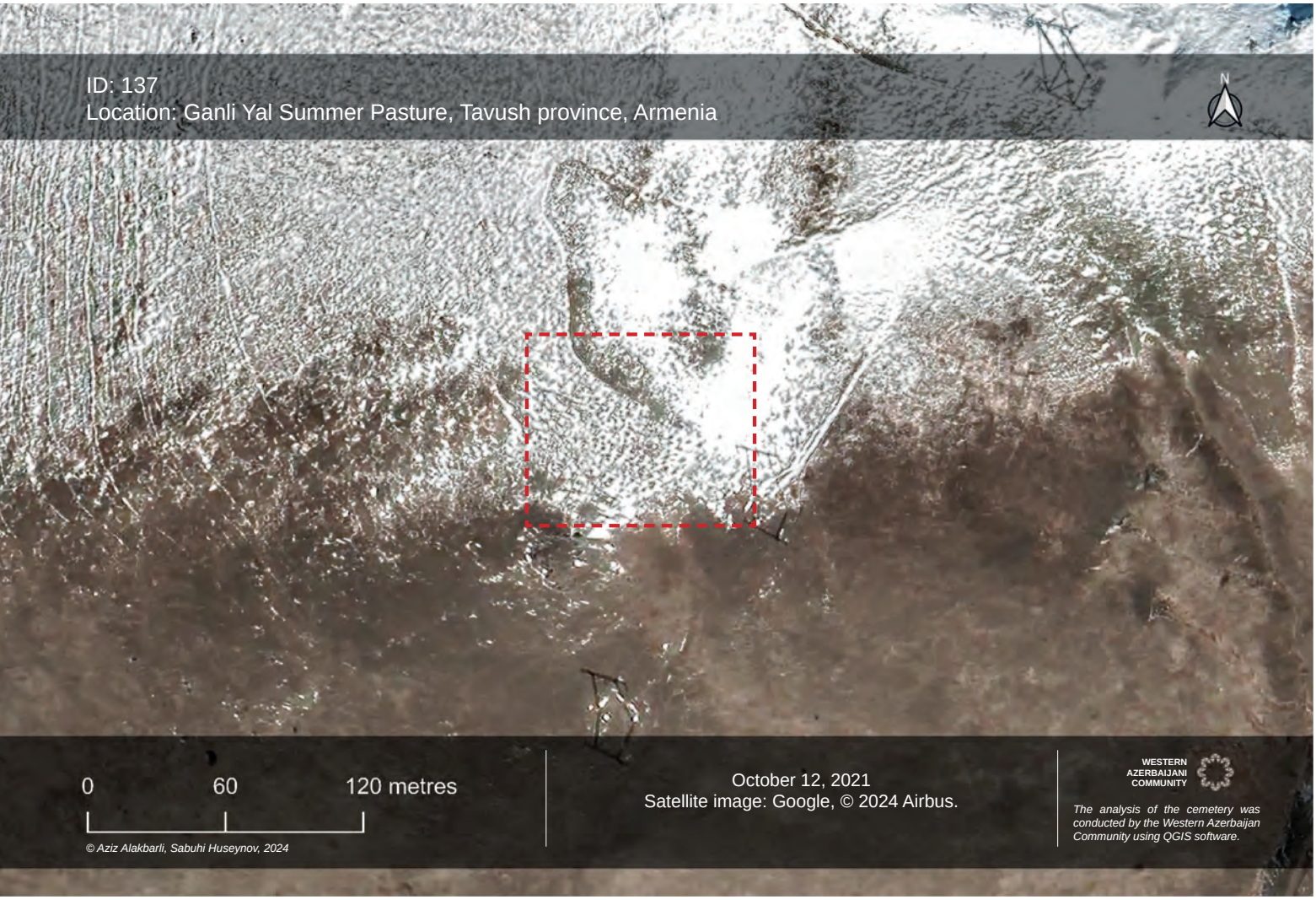
3. October 27, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
4. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (E.8) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
5. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1931.
6. Voenno-Topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-35 (*Delizhan*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
7. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, E.8 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1933.
8. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, E.8 (*Erivan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1936.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab RKKA, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1940.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoĭ Armii, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.


ID: 137
Location: Ganli Yal Summer Pasture, Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 137
Location: Ganli Yal Summer Pasture, Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 24, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 137
Location: Ganli Yal Summer Pasture, Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 12, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

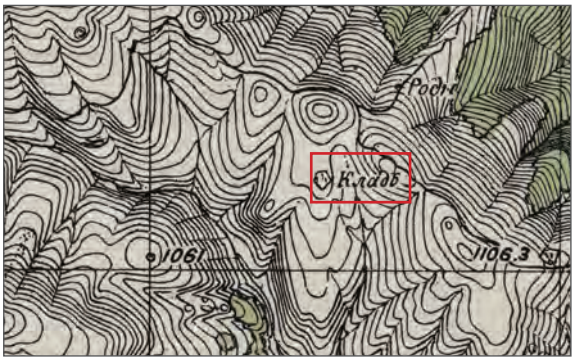
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1933

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1936

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1936 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1940

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1941

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

From 2021 to 2024

Status: OBLITERATED

Goyarchin Village Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Goyarchin village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 167 [MC-279], 40.739643, 45.063861

Goyarchin was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Garagoyunlu valley. Statistical records mention the village as early as the late 19th century. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 93 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the *Garagoyunlu village* commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the *Elizavetpol Governorate*, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its 141 inhabitants to flee. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Goyarchin village within its new administrative boundaries.4 In 1921, 143 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.5 In 1950, the village was officially dissolved, and its population—comprising 27 families—was relocated to the nearby village of Salah.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Goyarchin village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

The village cemetery was located in a mountainous area, along the road leading to the village of Salah.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The cemetery was identified on the right side of the road from Goyarchin to Salah, covering an area of 0.25 hectares, characterized by a heterogenous, patchy surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 24, 2013[8] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings reveal that following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, 0.8 hectares of the cemetery were completely destroyed. All tombstones and associated structures were removed, and the area was converted into farmland. The analysis revealed a 0.17-hectare area with a heterogeneous landscape, indicating that several tombstones remain partially sunken into the ground.

A recent photograph of the cemetery site, obtained from open sources, confirms the presence of old tombstones half-buried in the soil (Image No.1). Therefore, the tombstones could not be identified in satellite imagery.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2013 and October 27, 2021[9] (CNES/Airbus) revealed that the condition of the cemetery remained stable during this period and that no significant changes had occurred in the area. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2021 and July 6, 2024[10] (Airbus) revealed that earthmoving and excavation activities had begun in the area. The latter satellite imagery revealed the leveling of the 400-square-meter area near the roadside section of the cemetery, along with noticeable changes in soil coloration. These findings were indicative of events that contributed to the destruction of the cemetery.

Thus, between 1989 and 2013, a portion of the cemetery was lost, and destruction during this period was confirmed. Between 2013 and 2021, the site remained stable. However, the initiation of earthmoving activities between 2021 and 2024 is expected to lead to the complete obliteration of the cemetery. The changes observed during this period underscore the urgent need for immediate intervention and calls to safeguard the site and prevent further destruction of cultural heritage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 500 meters southeast of the center of Goyarchin village, on the right side of the road. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[11], 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[12], and 1990 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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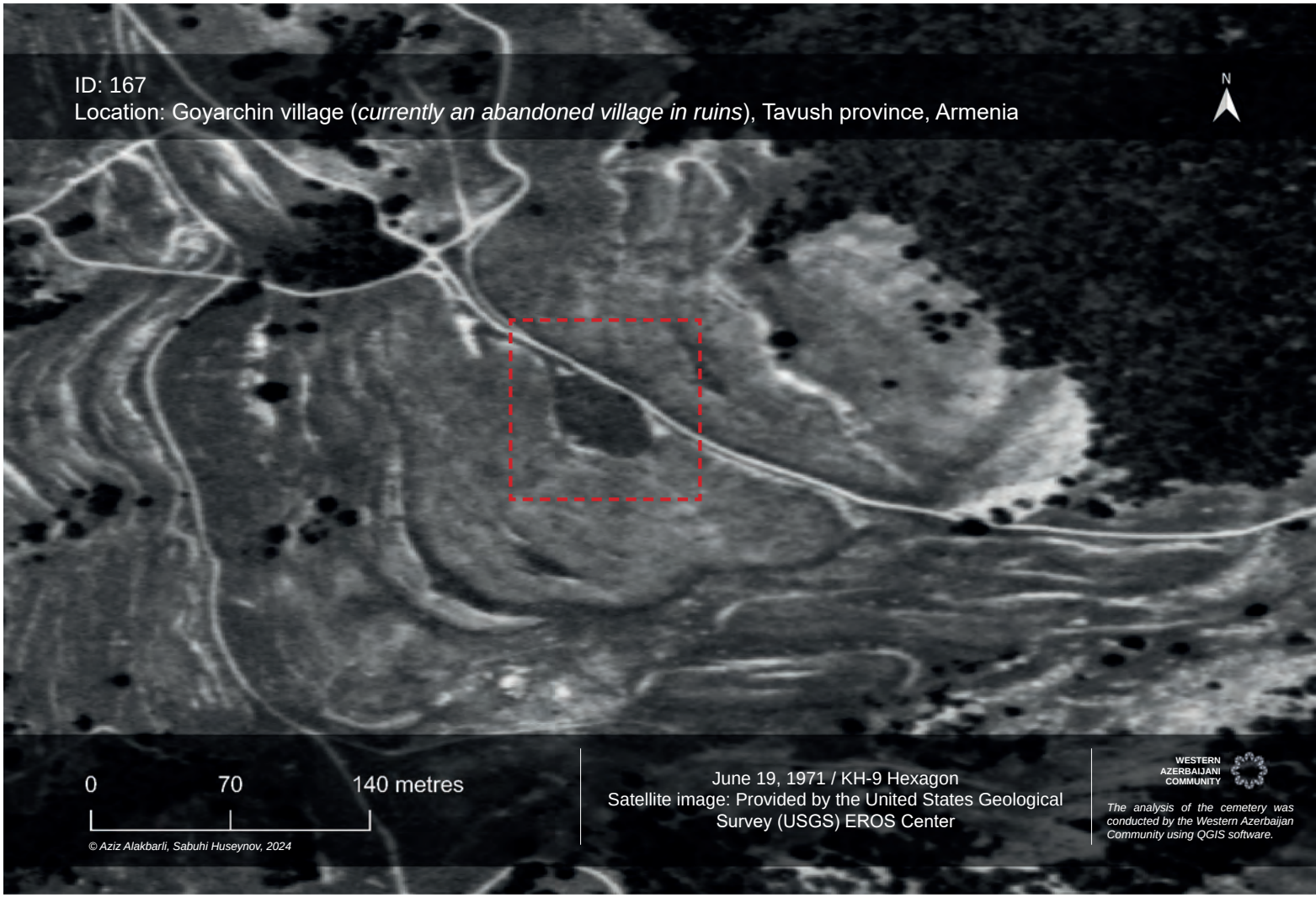
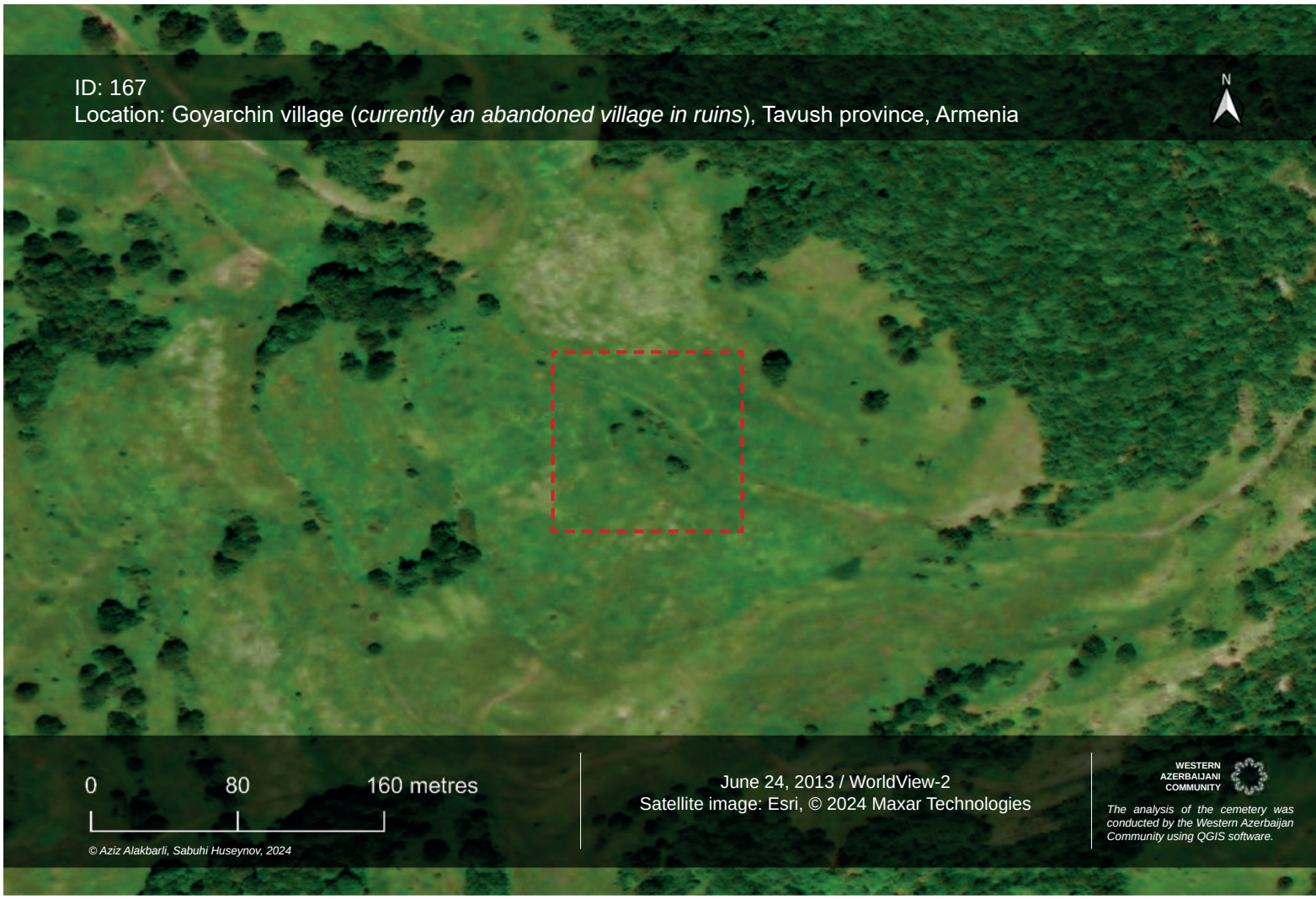
1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statistich-eskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914).
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statistich-eskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 198.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, June 24, 2013, Maxar via Esri Map.
9. October 27, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
10. July 06, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-35 (*Delizhan*) [map], 1:42,000,1931.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gel'kend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
13. Geral'nyi shtab. K-38-115 (*Idzhevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.


ID: 167
Location: Goyarchin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 167
Location: Goyarchin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 24, 2013 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 167
Location: Goyarchin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 27, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 167
Location: Goyarchin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
Earthworks
370 square metres
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

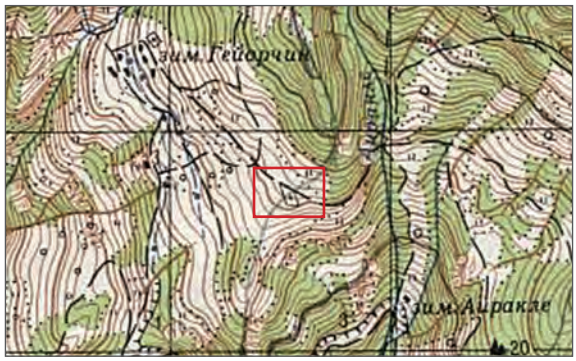
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 2007 to 2013

Status: DESTROYED

Haggikhli Village Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Haggikhli village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Hovk village (Armenian)
ID: 144 [MC-274], 40.783348, 45.029266

Haggikhli was an Azerbaijani-populated village located north of Akstafa river, in the Garagoyunlu valley. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. Statistical records mention the village as early as the late 19th century.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its 121 inhabitants to flee.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Haggikhli village within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 306 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6] By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Haggikhli village was renamed Vurghun[7] to commemorate Azerbaijani poet Samad Vurghun; on January 26, 1983, it was renamed again as Samad Vurghun.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Haggikhli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Haggikhli village was renamed Hovk.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The cemetery was identified in the south of Haggikhli village, on the right side of the road leading into the village, covering an area of 1 hectare, with tombstones and a mausoleum. The area was protected by the local population.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 16, 2007[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, significant alterations occurred in the northeastern part of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The mausoleum located within the cemetery had been obliterated by this date (Image No.2).

Satellite imagery dated 2007 (QuickBird-2) and June 24, 2013[13] (WorldView-2) revealed earthmoving activities within the cemetery area, as well as the construction of a road along its northeastern boundary. As a result of the road construction, the structure of several tombstones was severely damaged, and the integrity of the cemetery was compromised. This development can be considered a major alteration and an act of vandalism, as the construction directly damaged the cemetery.

Analysis of more than ten photographs confirmed acts of vandalism within the cemetery. Numerous tombstones had been toppled, portraits of the deceased had been scratched off the headstones, and grave slabs had been broken. The mausoleum had been demolished, with only its dome remaining visible above ground (Images Nos. 1-4). The site was found to have been subjected to severe acts of vandalism.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2013 (WorldView-2), October 27, 2021[14] (CNES/Airbus) and September 9, 2024[15] (Airbus) revealed that the condition of the cemetery remained stable during this period and that no significant changes had occurred in the area.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located southwest of Haggikhli village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000[16] and 1:100,000[17] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 114-115.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 137.
5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
6. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 114-115.
7. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi SSR,* no. 2 (669), 1978 (Yerevan): 5.
8. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi SSR,* no. 2 (790), 1983 (Yerevan): 11-12.
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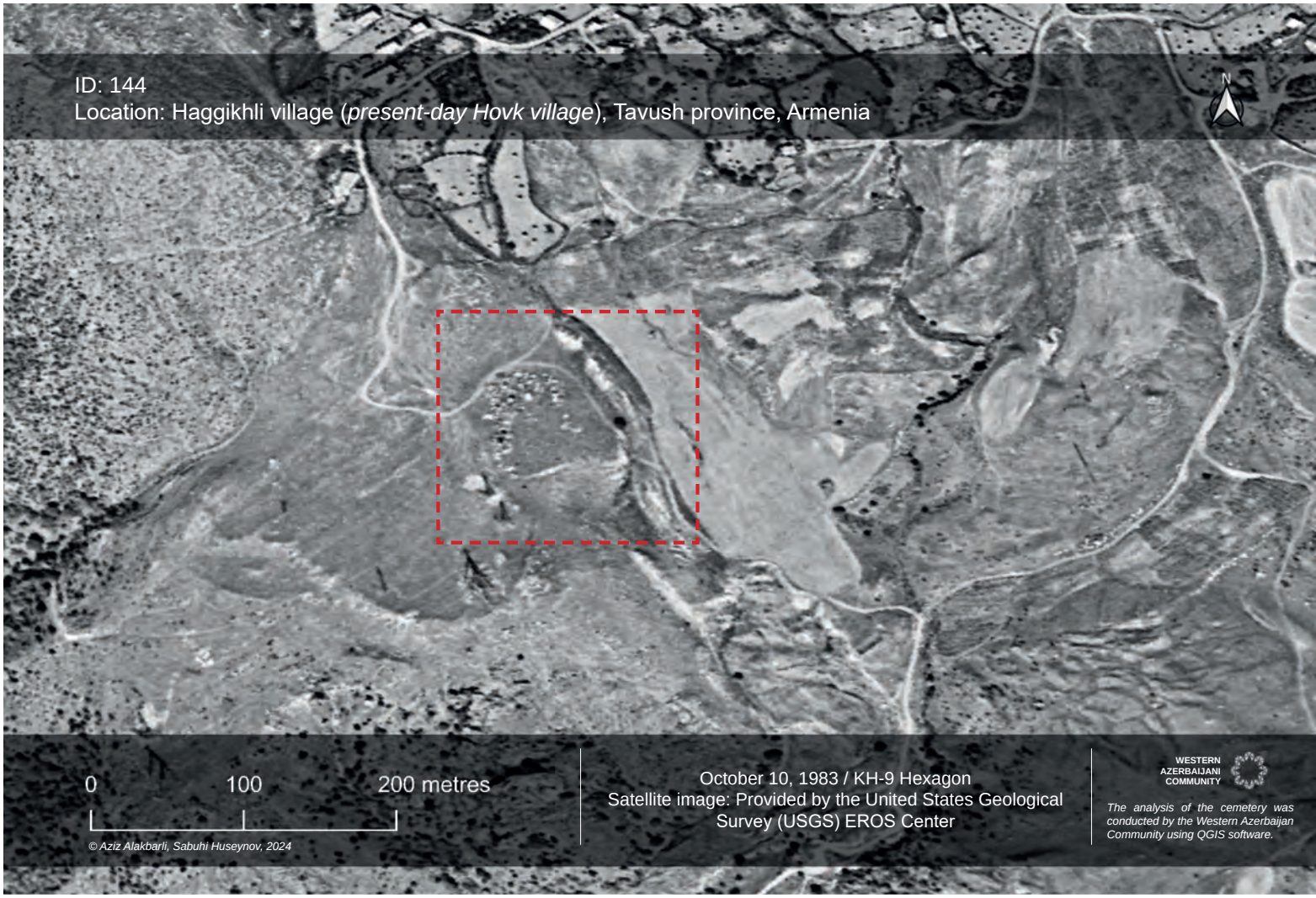
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *QuickBird-2*, August 16, 2007, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. *WorldView-2*, 24 June, 2013, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. October 27, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
15. September 09, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
16. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gelkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
17. Geral'nyi shtab. K-38-115 (*Idzhevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1990.


ID: 144
Location: Haggikhli village (*present-day Hovk village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 144
Location: Haggikhli village (*present-day Hovk village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 16, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

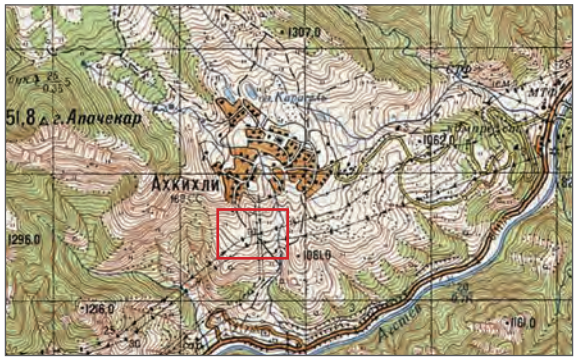
ID: 144
Location: Haggikhli village (*present-day Hovk village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
Cultivated land: 0.23 ha
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 27, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 144
Location: Haggikhli village (*present-day Hovk village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
Cultivated land: 0.23 ha
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 9, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1990

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1990 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

© 2024

From 2001 to 2002

Status: OBLITERATED

Haggikhli Village Old Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Haggikhli village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Hovk village (Armenian)
ID: 145 [MC-278], 40.775420, 45.031056

Haggikhli was an Azerbaijani-populated village located north of Akstafa river, in the Garagoyunlu valley. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. Statistical records mention the village as early as the late 19th century. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 450 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its 121 inhabitants to flee.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Haggikhli village within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 306 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6] By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Haggikhli village was renamed Vurghun[7] to commemorate Azerbaijani poet Samad Vurghun; on January 26, 1983, it was renamed again as Samad Vurghun.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Haggikhli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Haggikhli village was renamed Hovk.[10]

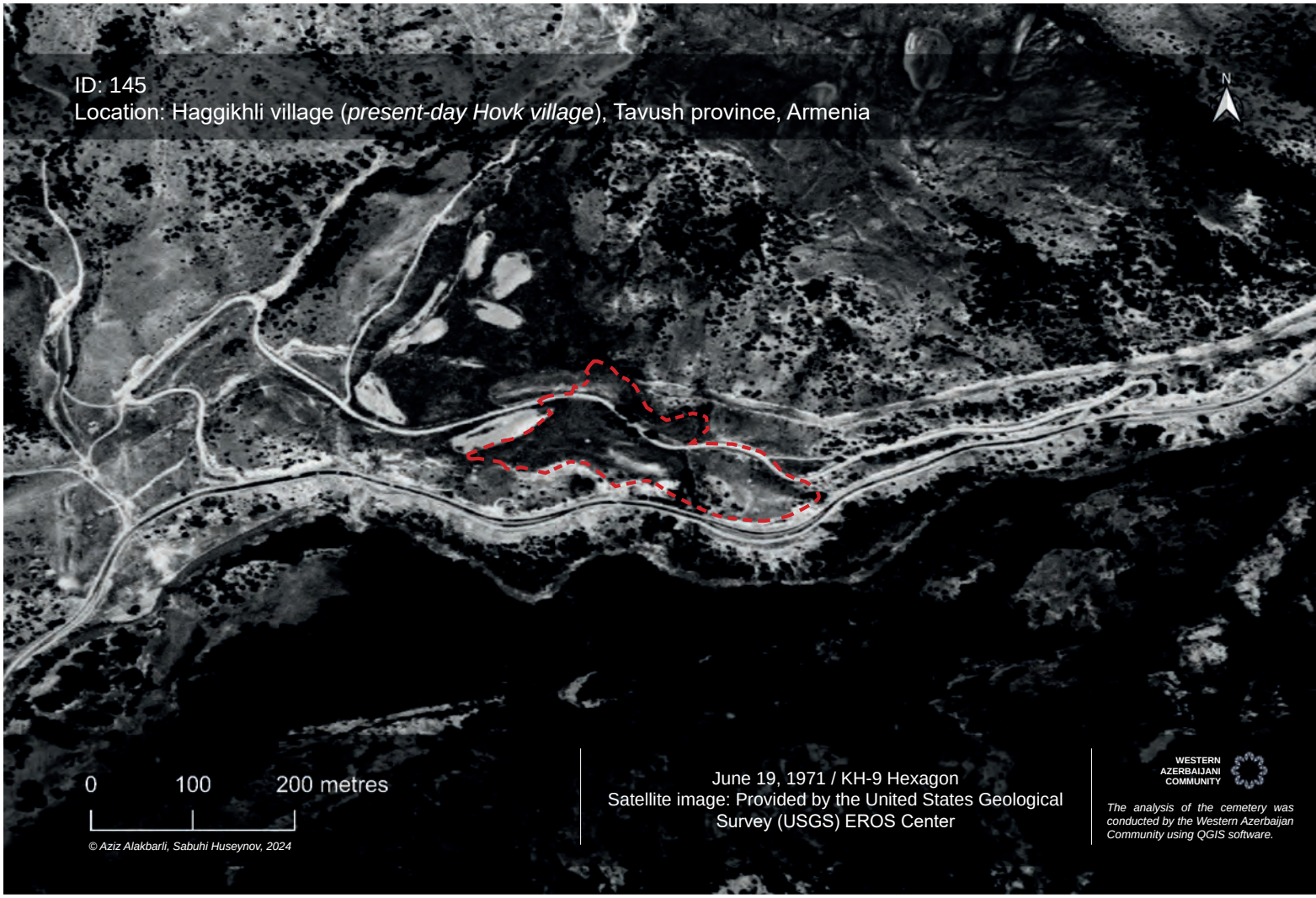
The old cemetery was located south of Haggikhli village, on the right bank of the Akstafa river and to the north of the road.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The cemetery was located on a high hill north of the road, along the right bank of the Akstafa river, with a heterogeneous surface pattern. Due to the cemetery's age, the tombstones were either sunken into the ground or had collapsed, making them difficult to detect in the image. However, a comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 10, 1983[12] (KH-9 Hexagon) (at right, bottom). The analysis identified several tombstones within the cemetery. The satellite imagery suggests that by 1971, the topography of the cemetery's southern section had been altered in a way that caused damage to its structure. This was caused by the construction of the new road. Despite this, the cemetery still occupied a large area, situated between the old and newly constructed roads.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[13] (Spot 5) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis revealed that by 2007, a new road had been constructed through the center of the cemetery area, causing severe damage to its structure. As part of road infrastructure development, the topography of the area was altered. With the use of heavy machinery, a significant portion of the hill on which the cemetery was located was cut down, and the soil was used for road construction. As a result, the historic Muslim cemetery was disturbed during the reconstruction of the modern M4 highway, and 50 percent of the cemetery area was completely destroyed. In the remaining 1.7-hectare section of the hill where part of the cemetery once stood, all tombstones were demolished. Analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 and 2024[14] enabled a comparison of the condition of Haggikhli's old cemetery over that period. The results indicate that the cemetery was completely obliterated, with no tombstones remaining by the end of the observation period (Images Nos. 1-3).

The Haggikhli cemetery stood as a symbol of the centuries-old presence of Azerbaijanis in the region and served as a significant piece of historical heritage. The construction of a road through the center of the cemetery and the use of its soil for construction purposes constituted an act aimed at erasing the historical traces of Azerbaijanis in the area. The destruction of tombstones, the alteration


ID: 145
Location: Haggikhli village (present-day Hovk village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

of the topography, and the loss of a large part of the cemetery resulted in the failure to preserve a vital heritage site and the loss of important cultural values associated with it.

This infrastructural transformation carried out with the support of official decisions by the Republic of Armenia led to the destruction of the cemetery and was implemented as a step toward erasing the historical and religious heritage of Azerbaijanis.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located approximately 1 km south of Haggikhli village, along the M4 highway, on the bank of the Akstafa river, at an elevation of 927 meters above sea level. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1926 (scale 1:210,000)[15], 1928 (1:210,000)[16], 1931 (1:42,000[17] and 1:210,000)[18], 1933 (1:210,000)[19], 1936 (1:210,000)[20], 1940 (1:210,000)[21], 1941 (1:210,000)[22] and 1975 (1:50,000)[23]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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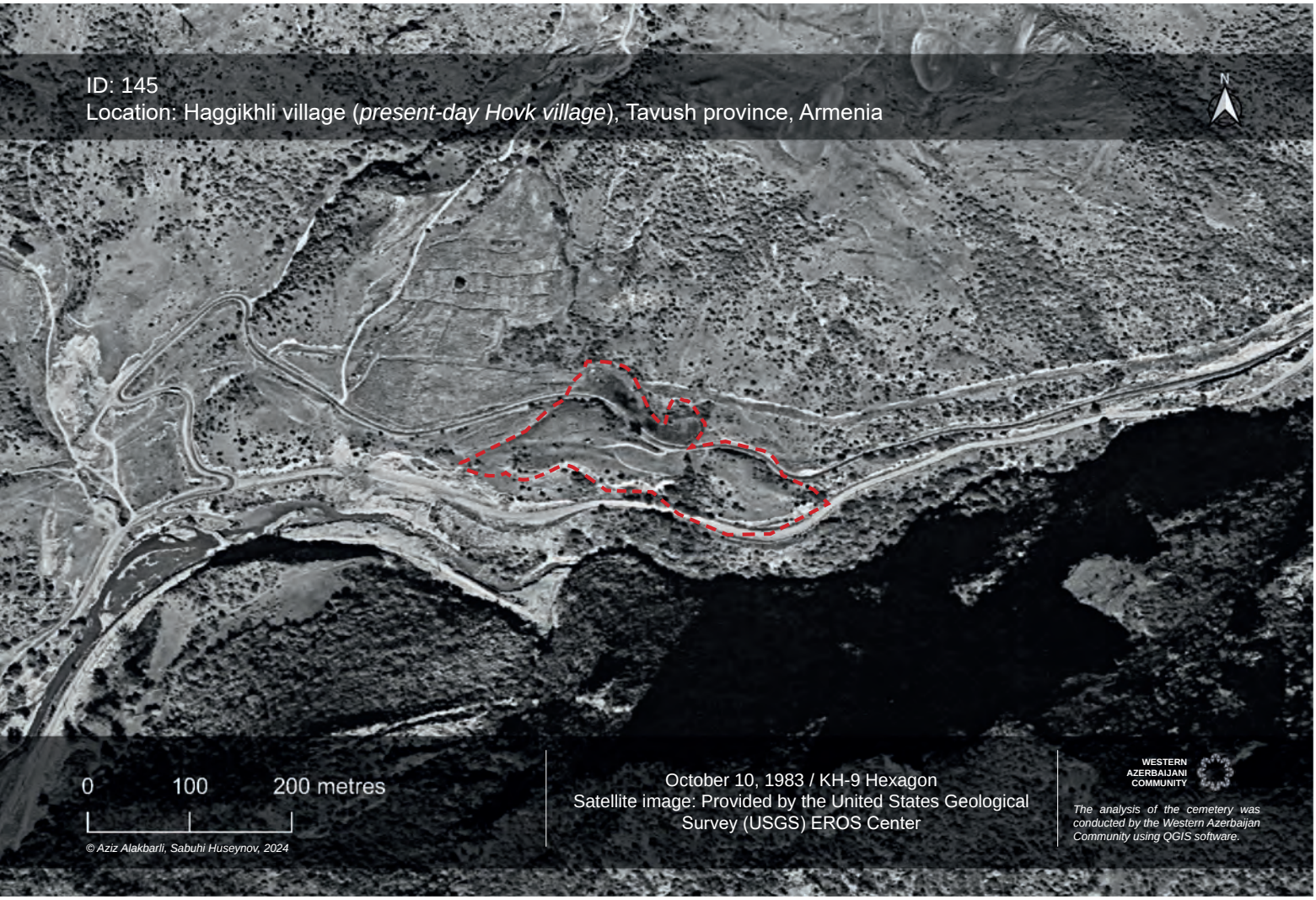
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, June 19, 1971, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
13. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/ Airbus DS via Esri Map.
14. September 09, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
15. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1928.
17. Voenno-Topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-35 (*Delizhan*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
18. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, *Riad 8, List E* (*E.8*) [map], 1:210,000 (1931).
19. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, E.8 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1933.
20. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, E.8 (*Erivan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1936.
21. General'nyĭ Shtab RKKA, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1940.
22. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoĭ Armii, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.
23. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gelkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.


ID: 145
Location: Haggikhli village (present-day Hovk village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 145
Location: Haggikhli village (present-day Hovk village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 145
Location: Haggikhli village (*present-day Hovk village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 9, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1928

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1928 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1933

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1936

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1936 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1940

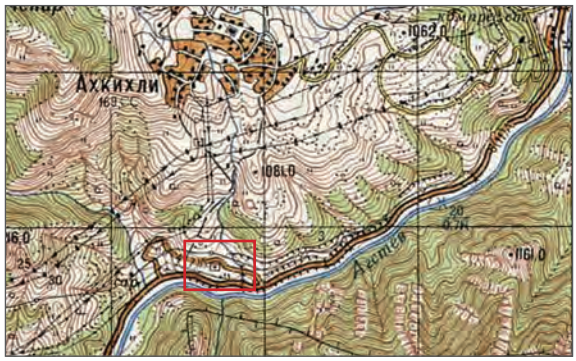
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1941

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2007

Status: DESTROYED

Polad Ayrum Village Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Polad Ayrum village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Khachardzan village (Armenian)
ID: 142 [MC-089], 40.714444, 45.052500

Polad Ayrum was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Garagoyunlu valley, near the Tarsa river, northwest of the Garagaya mountain. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930.Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalenda*r'), the village had 347 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Polad Ayrum village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 302 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[7] During Soviet rule, Polad Ayrum village was renamed Polad.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Polad Ayrum village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Polad Ayrum village was renamed Khachardzan.[9]

In the village cemetery, a mausoleum was constructed in 1958–1959 over the grave of Mashadi Hasan Abdal oghlu Aliyev.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The cemetery was identified in the southwest of Polad Ayrum village, covering an area of 1 hectare, with tombstones and a mausoleum. The area was protected by the local population.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2007[12] (Spot 5) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the mausoleum remained intact; however, significant changes occurred across the cemetery grounds. These changes are associated with acts of vandalism. Numerous tombstones were found broken, and fragments of stone were scattered throughout the area. In several locations, grave slabs had been displaced and reoriented. Since the results of vandalism are difficult to assess through satellite imagery, the authors analyzed a video recording from the 2000s to study the incident. The analysis of the footage confirmed that vandalism was a complex, multi-layered process. The video footage confirmed that the acts of vandalism began after the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village and continued over an extended period. The destruction observed in the area appears to have been carried out both on the basis of ethnic or religious hatred and for material gain. The dislodging, toppling, and breaking of tombstones, along with the scattering of tombstone fragments across the site, indicate that the vandalism was widespread and carried out in an organized manner (Images Nos. 1-6).

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2013 and July 6, 2024[13] (Airbus) revealed that the condition of the cemetery remained stable during this period and that no significant changes had occurred in the area.

Thus, the analysis confirmed that the acts of vandalism and destruction in the cemetery took place after 1989 and continued through 2000.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on elevated terrain, in the southwestern part of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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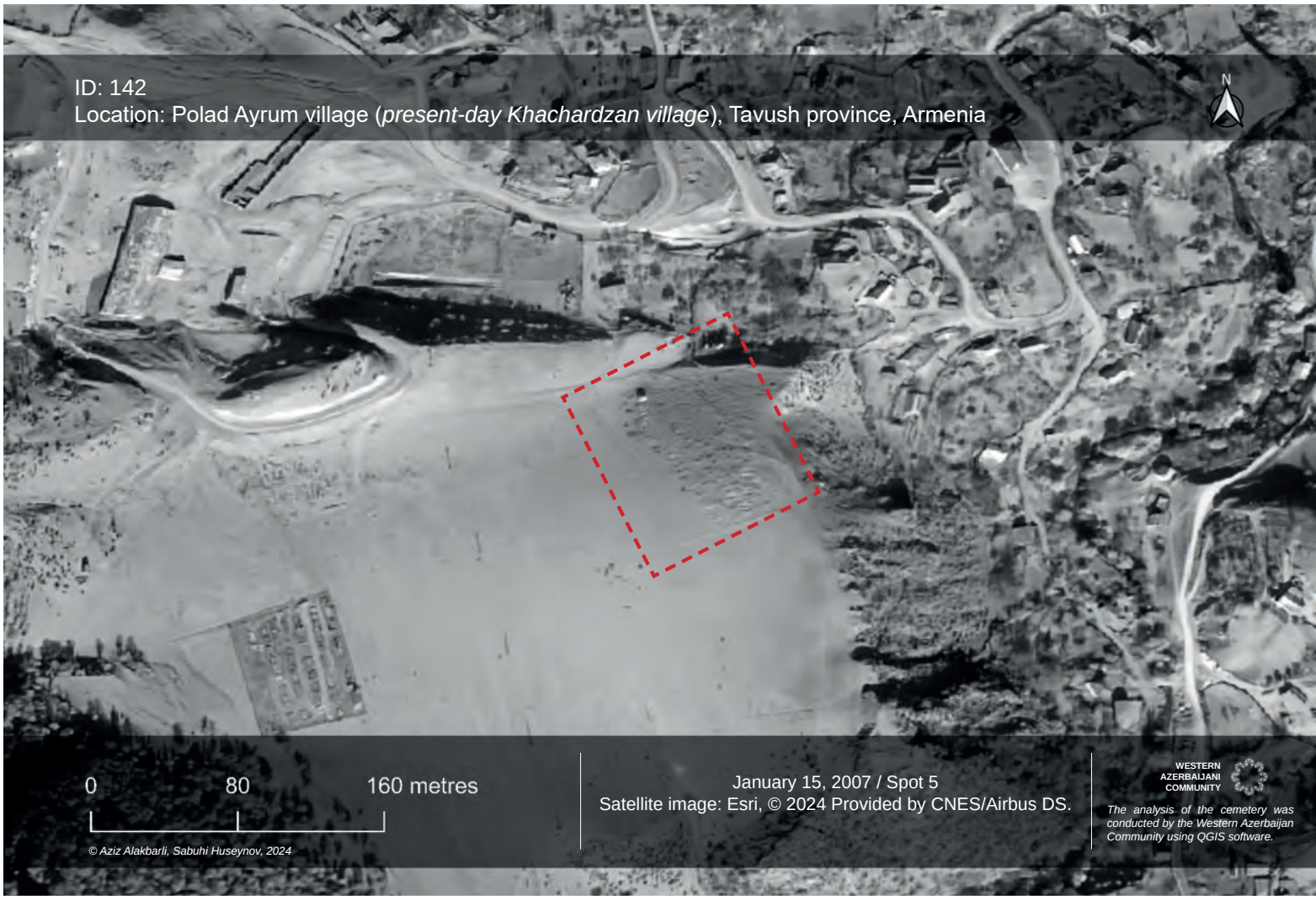
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 236.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
10. The information was provided by the Western Azerbaijan Community.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983.USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007. CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
13. July 06, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, *K-38-115-V (Gelkend)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.

ID: 142
Location: Polad Ayrum village (present-day Khachardzan village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

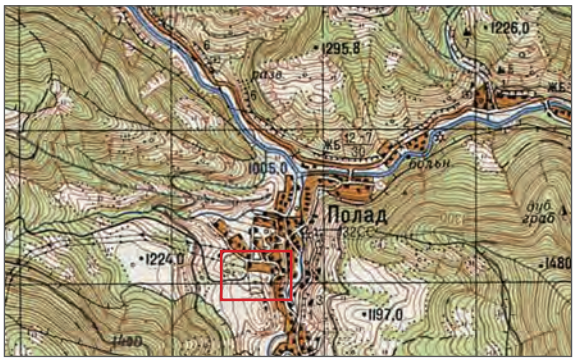

ID: 142
Location: Polad Ayrum village (present-day Khachardzan village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus DS.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 142
Location: Polad Ayrum village (*present-day Khachardzan village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

Still frames from video footage recorded in the 2000s

From 2018 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Polad Ayrum Village Old Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Polad Ayrum village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Khachardzan village (Armenian)
ID: 166 [MC-533], 40.727307, 45.050132

Polad Ayrum was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Garagoyunlu valley, near the Tarsa river, northwest of the Garagaya mountain. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. Statistical records mention the village as early as the second half of the 19th century. Records indicate that 347 Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) lived in the village in 1914.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Polad Ayrum village within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 302 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resumed their lives.[6] During Soviet rule, Polad Ayrum village was renamed Polad.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Polad Ayrum village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Polad Ayrum village was renamed Khachardzan.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. An area of 1.5 hectares on the slope, located on the right side of the road heading west from Polad Ayrum village, was identified with a heterogeneous surface pattern, suggesting that the site may potentially be a cemetery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated June 19, 1971 (KH-9 Hexagon) and June 28, 2018[11] (Spot 6) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the cemetery site remained undisturbed.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2018 and October 27, 2021[12] (Spot 6) confirmed that earthmoving and excavation activities had been carried out in the area. As of the latter date, earthmoving activities had been carried out across the entire area, the tombstones had been cleared, and the site had been terraced for the planting of fruit trees or other types of vegetation. As a result of these activities, the structure of the area was altered, and its surface characteristics were significantly changed. Terracing is typically implemented for agricultural or landscape design purposes. In this case, earthmoving and terracing led to the complete destruction of the cemetery. This confirms that the cemetery site has been repurposed for agricultural use.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located on the right side of the road leading to Dilijan. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1926 (scale 1:210,000)[13], 1928 (1:210,000)[14], 1931 (1:42,000[15] and 1:210,000)[16], 1933 (1:210,000)[17], 1936 (1:210,000)[18], 1940 (1:210,000)[19], 1941 (1:210,000)[20] and 1975 (1:50,000)[21]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1971 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 237.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 236.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
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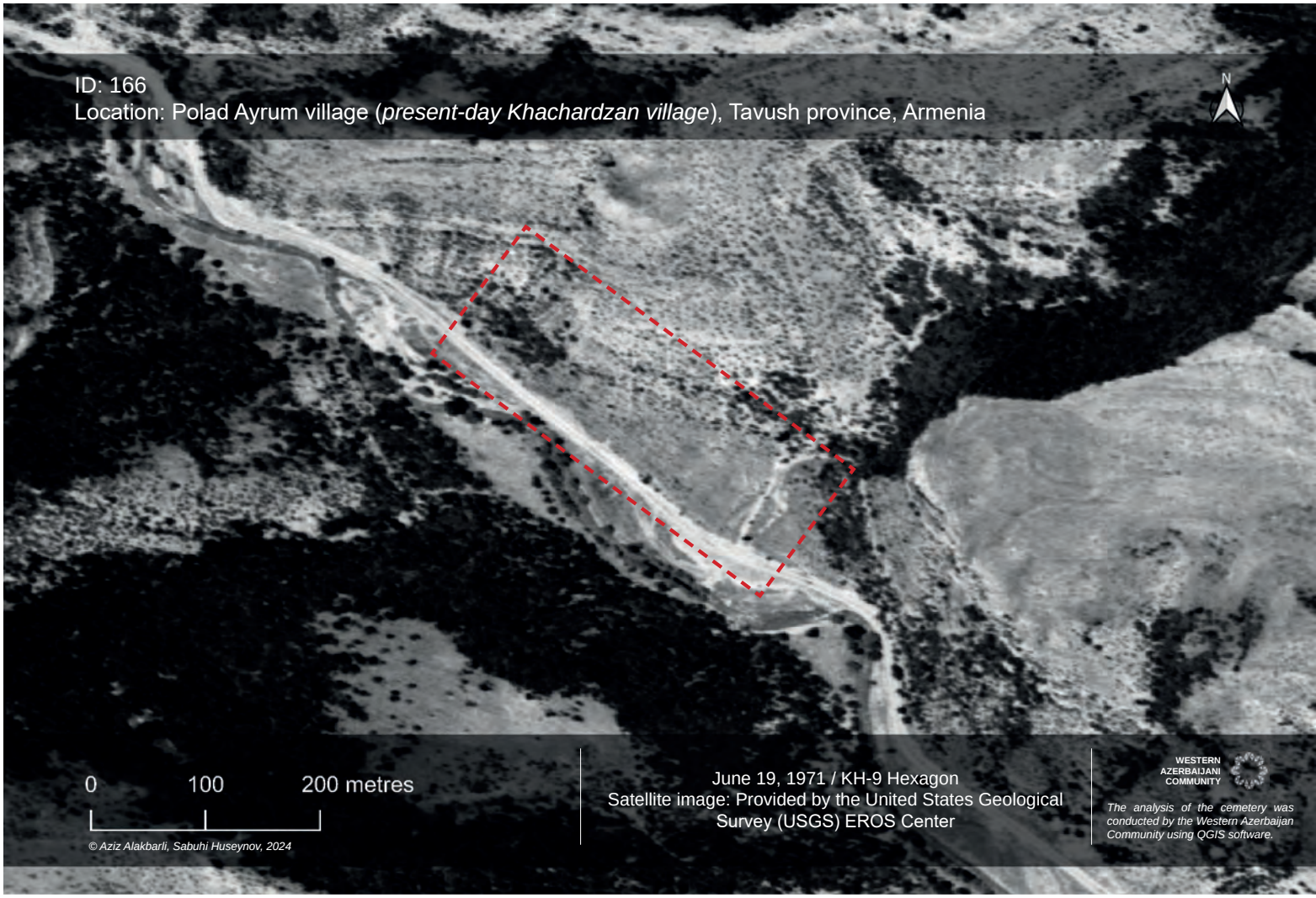
12. October 27, 2021, CNES via Google Earth.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 8, List E (*E.8*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1928.
15. Voenno-Topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXII-35 (*Delizhan*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, *Riad 8, List E* (*E.8*) [map], 1:210,000, 1931.
17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, E.8 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1933.
18. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, E.8 (*Erivan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1936.
19. General'nyï Shtab RKKA, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1940.
20. General'nyï Shtab Krasnoï Armii, E.8 (*Yerevan*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.
21. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gelkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.


ID: 166
Location: Polad Ayrum village (*present-day Khachardzan village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 19, 1971 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 166
Location: Polad Ayrum village (*present-day Khachardzan village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 12, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1928

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1928 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1933

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1936

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1936 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1940

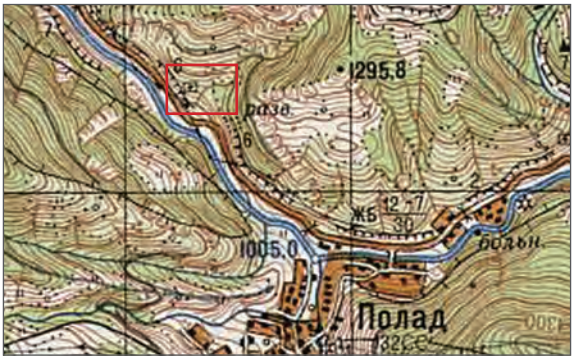
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1940 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1941

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2018

Status: DESTROYED

Salah Village Cemetery

Location: Ijevan district, Salah village (Azerbaijani) / Tavush province, Aghavnavank village (Armenian)
ID: 143 [MC-111], 40.7271355, 45.0914795

Salah was an Azerbaijani-populated village located in the Garagoyunlu valley, along the right bank of the Tarsa river. It was incorporated into Ijevan district on September 9, 1930. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 64 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Garagoyunlu village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Gazakh *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Gazakh *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In March 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[4] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Salah village within its new administrative boundaries.[5] In 1921, 80 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resumed their lives.[6]

In 1950, residents who had relocated from the neighboring village of Goyarchin were also resettled in Salah village. In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Salah village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Salah village was renamed Aghavnavank.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery. The findings revealed that it spanned an area of 0.7 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Its territory was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated October 10, 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and January 15, 2018[10] (Spot 6) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the cemetery's perimeter walls were destroyed. However, the resolution of the latter imagery did not allow for a clear identification of the damage.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2018, October 27, 2021[11] (CNES/Airbus), and July 6, 2024[12] (Airbus) made it possible to trace the destruction that had occurred in the area in previous years. Encroachments were observed in the northern and southeastern parts of the cemetery, and parts of the area had been incorporated into adjacent household plots. Several grave slabs and headstones were found displaced beside certain tombstones. In total, as of 2024, the shadows of 37 tombstones could still be identified, with their headstones visibly standing. The most recent video footage from the cemetery site has provided additional insight for assessing the current condition of the area. Analysis of the video footage revealed that the images of the deceased on several tombstones had been scratched off, and the entire cemetery area was being used for livestock grazing. The footage also showed that some of the tombstones had been destroyed years earlier.

The targeted removal of the portraits of the deceased and the use of the cemetery as pastureland indicate that serious acts of vandalism and destruction of historical heritage have occurred at the site. As a result of these processes, the Salah Cemetery now faces the threat of losing its historical and cultural significance.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on a hillside in the northwestern part of the village, at an elevation of 1,158 meters above sea level. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 58.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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5. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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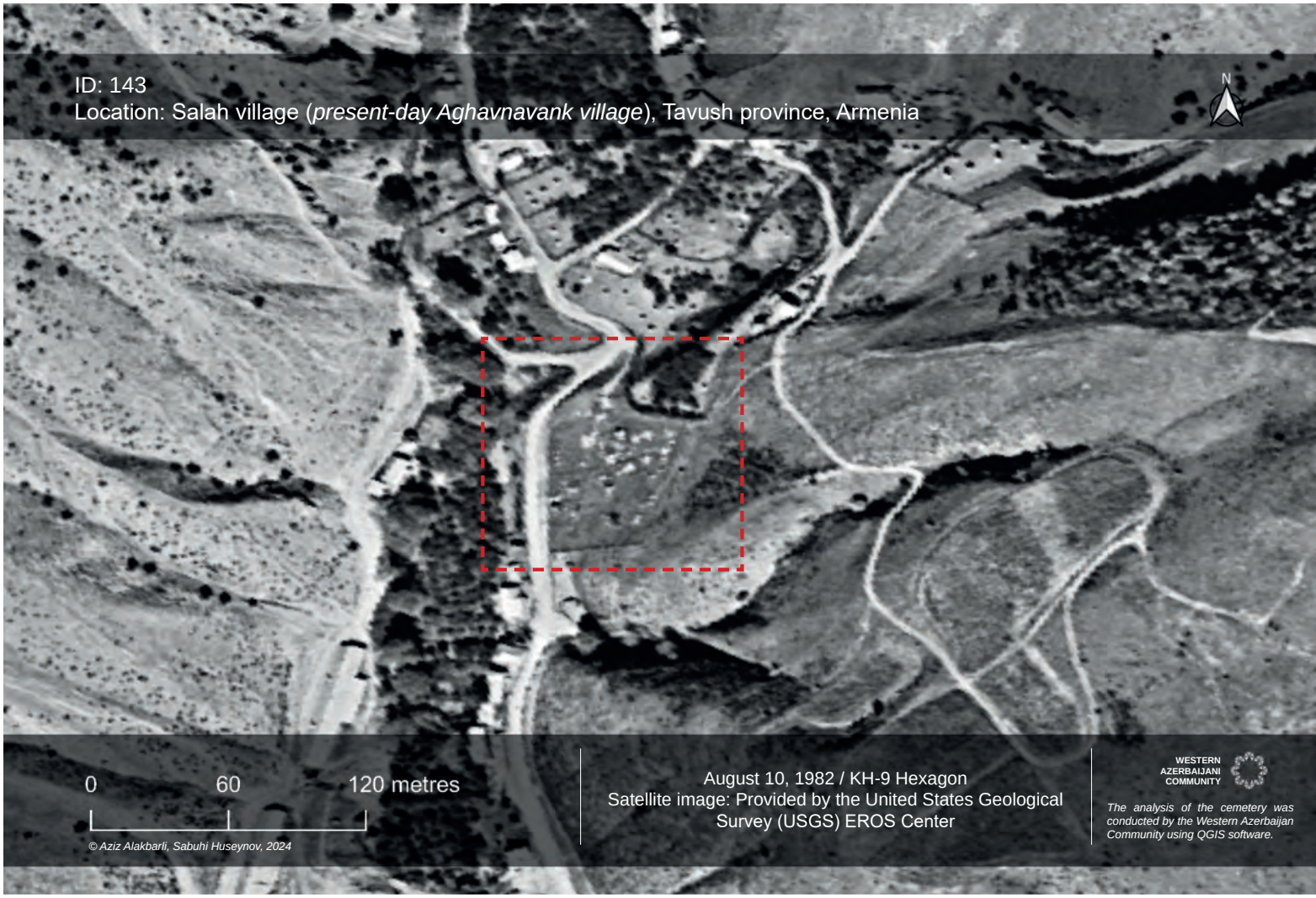
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 236.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A011*, October 10, 1983.USGS EROS Data Center.
10. June 28, 2018, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
11. October 27, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. July 06, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-115-V (*Gelkend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.


ID: 143
Location: Salah village (present-day Aghavnavank village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 143
Location: Salah village (present-day Aghavnavank village), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 28, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

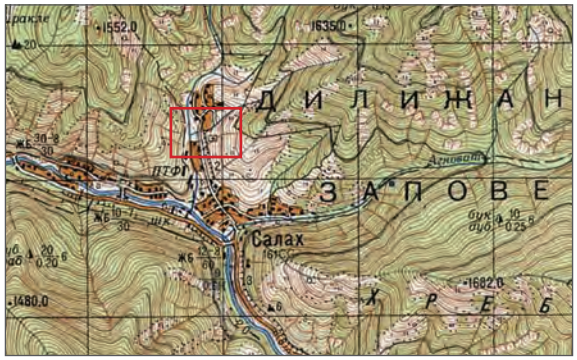
ID: 143
Location: Salah village (*present-day Aghavnavank village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 27, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 143
Location: Salah village (*present-day Aghavnavank village*), Tavush province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 6, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

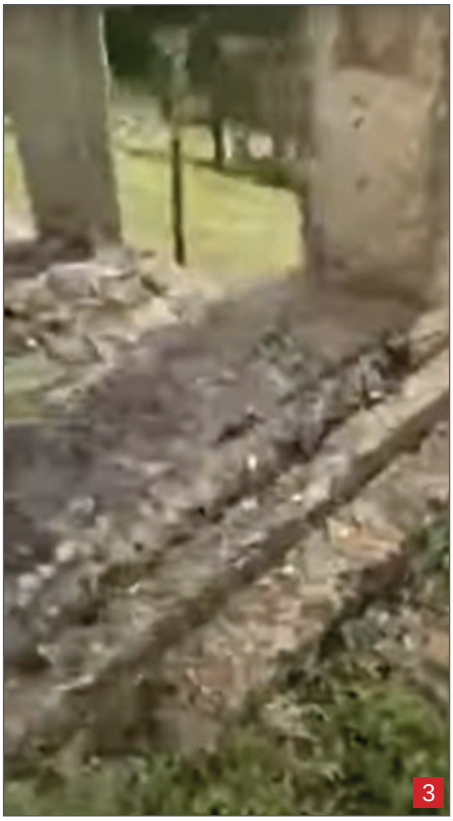
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

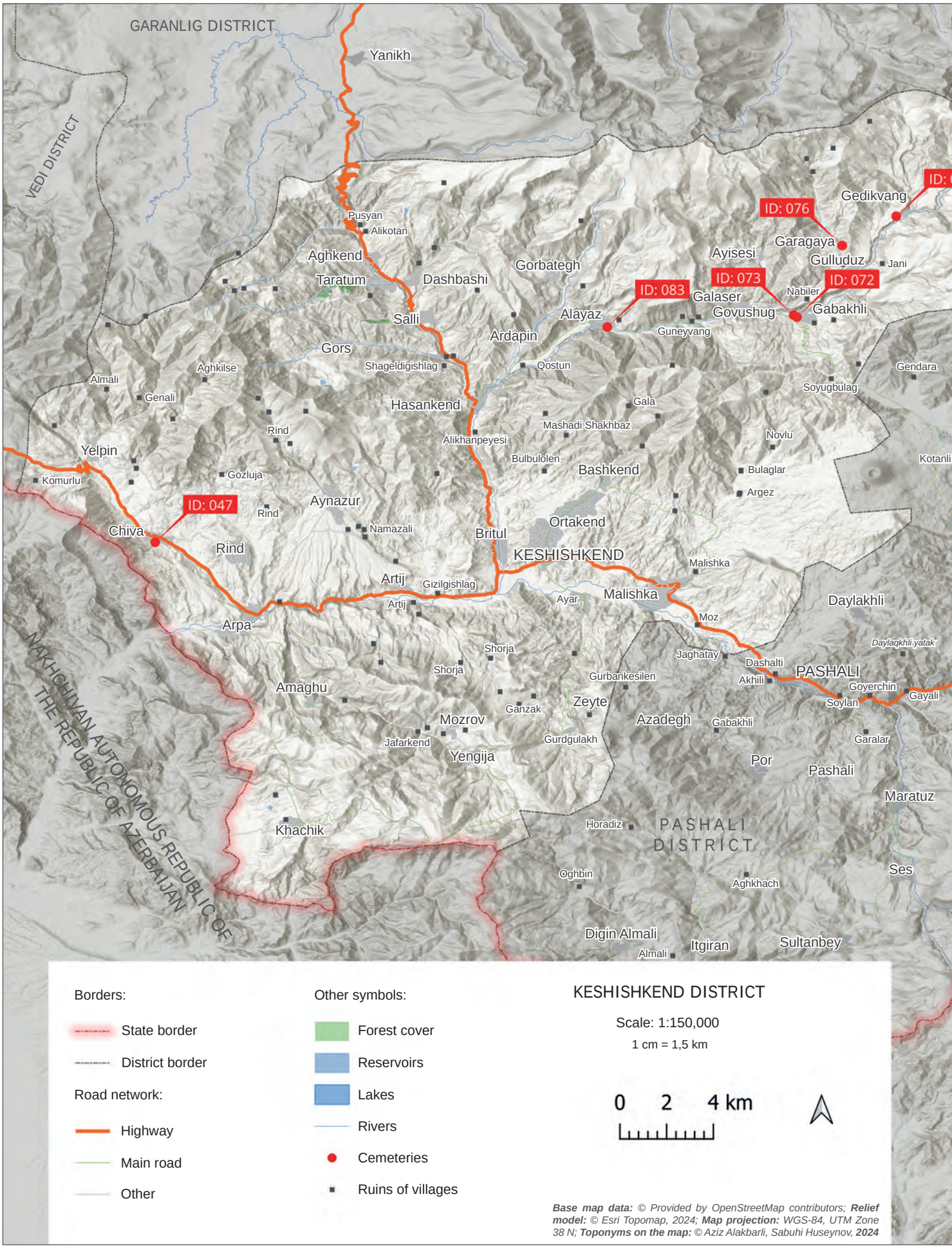
1975

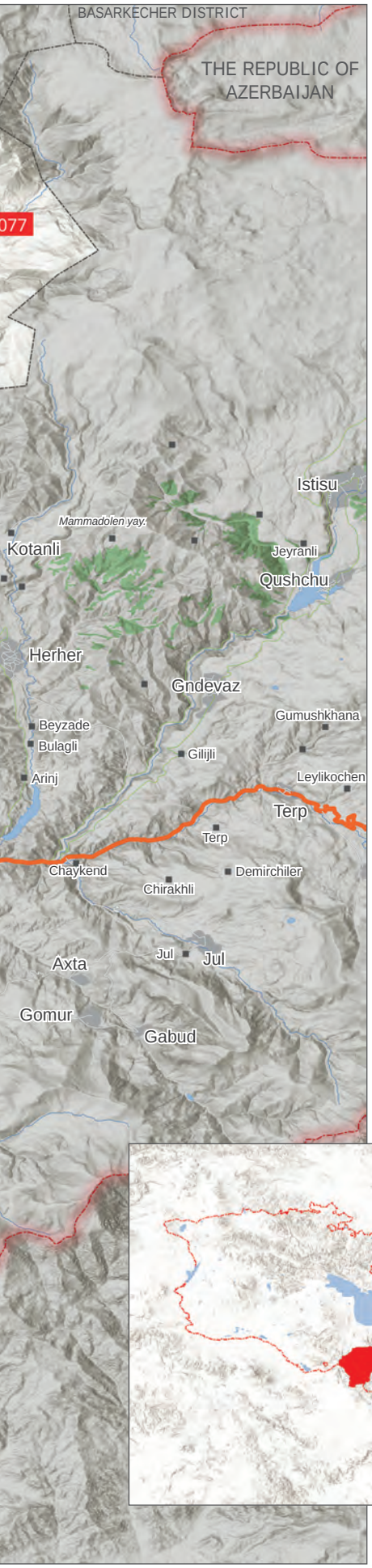
Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

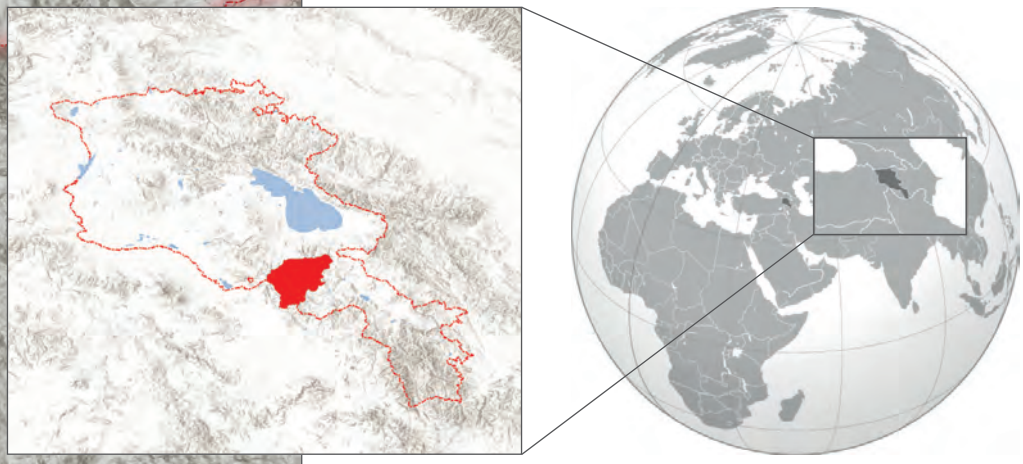


CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:




GARANLIG DISTRICT
VEDI DISTRICT
Yanikh
Pusyan
Alikotan
Aghkend
Taratum
Dashbashi
Gorbategh
Salli
Ardapin
Gors
Shageldigishlag
Qostun
Aghkilse
Almali
Genali
Hasankend
Rind
Alikhanpeyesi
Mashadi Shakhbaz
Gala
Yelpin
Komurlu
Gozluja
Bulbulolen
Bashkend
Bulaglar
Argez
Novlu
Kotanli
ID: 047
Chiva
Rind
Aynazur
Namazali
Britul
Ortakend
KESHISHKEND
Artij
Gizilgishlag
Malishka
Ayar
Daylakhli
Moz
Arpa
Shorja
Jaghatay
Dashalti
PASHALI
Akhili
Goyerchin
Gayali
Soylan
Daylaqkhli yatak
Amaghu
Gurbankesilen
Zeyte
Ganzak
Mozrov
Azadegh
Gabakhli
Jafarkent
Gurdgulakh
Garalar
Yengija
Por
Pashali
Maratuz
Khachik
Horadiz
PASHALI DISTRICT
Oghbin
Aghkhach
Ses
Digin Almali
Itgiran
Sultanbey
Almali
NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
ID: 076
ID: 073
ID: 072
ID: 083
Gedikvang
Garagaya
Ayisesi
Gulluduz
Jani
Galaser
Nabiler
Govushug
Gabakhli
Alayaz
Guneyvang
Gendara
Soyugbulag
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
KESHISHKEND DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024





KESHISHKEND DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Daralayaz *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Keshishkend district.
Establishment date: October 15, 1931.
Area: 1,134 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Keshishkend (*later renamed Yeghegnadzor, A.A., S.H.*). It is located 122 km from the city of Iravan. The district was renamed Mikoyan on January 3, 1935. It was renamed Yeghegnadzor on December 6, 1957.

According to 1970 data, the district included 1 urban-type settlement, 18 village councils, and 33 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded at 33,200, with 5,100 residing in urban areas and 28,100 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Govushug, Garagaya, Ayisesi, Galaser, Gabakhli, Amaghu, Chiva, Alayaz, Gadikvang, Guluduzu, Hors, and Salli.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Vayots Dzor province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Alayaz Village Muslim Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Alayaz village (Azerbaijan) / Vayots Dzor province, Yeghegis village (Armenian)
ID: 083 [MC-084], 39.8700264, 45.3640538

Alayaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the bank of the Yoghunsu river, a right tributary of the Alagoz river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (referred to as *"Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* (*'Kavkazskii kalendar'*), the village had 524 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Alayaz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the *Sharur-Daralayaz uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In June 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, approximately 3,000 people—including the residents of the village and Azerbaijani refugees from neighbouring villages who had sought shelter there, comprising around 250 families—were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon the village.[5] Following the Armenian attacks in 1919, Armenian refugees brought from the territory of present-day Turkiye were resettled in the areas vacated by the displaced local population. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Alayaz within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 180 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began to live alongside the Armenian refugees.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Alayaz village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Alayaz village was renamed Yeghegis.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis, the cemetery covered an area of 1.26 hectares, with most of the tombstones identified in the western section. The tombstones located in the eastern section were characterized by a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 27, 2003[11] (Ikonos) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that significant alterations occurred in the cemetery between 1989 and 2003. Specifically, as of the latter date, the cemetery had been completely obliterated except for a few broken tombstones scattered across a 100-square-meter section. It was determined that by 2003, the site had been cleared and converted into fruit orchards.

In 2019, Armenian propagandist Alexander Lapshin filmed (Images Nos. 1-6) within a 100-square-meter section of the Alayaz Cemetery—originally spanning 1.26 hectares as of 1980—and falsely claimed that it had not been destroyed.[12] However, WorldView-2 satellite imagery[13] from 2016 documented the destruction of the central and eastern sections of the cemetery, and in 2022, Yevgeny Alenov recorded that only a few broken tombstones remained (Images Nos. 7-11).

Thus, both satellite imagery and photographs confirm that following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population, the Alayaz Cemetery was systematically destroyed and completely erased and repurposed as orchard land by 2003, refuting Lapshin's manipulative claims from 2019.

GEOLOCATION:

The village cemetery is located to the east, on the right side of the road leading to Govushug village, along the bank of the Alayaz river. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 128.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 162-163.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 344.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1201-100046A017*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *Ikonos*, August 27, 2003, GeoEye (Ikonos) via Esri Map.
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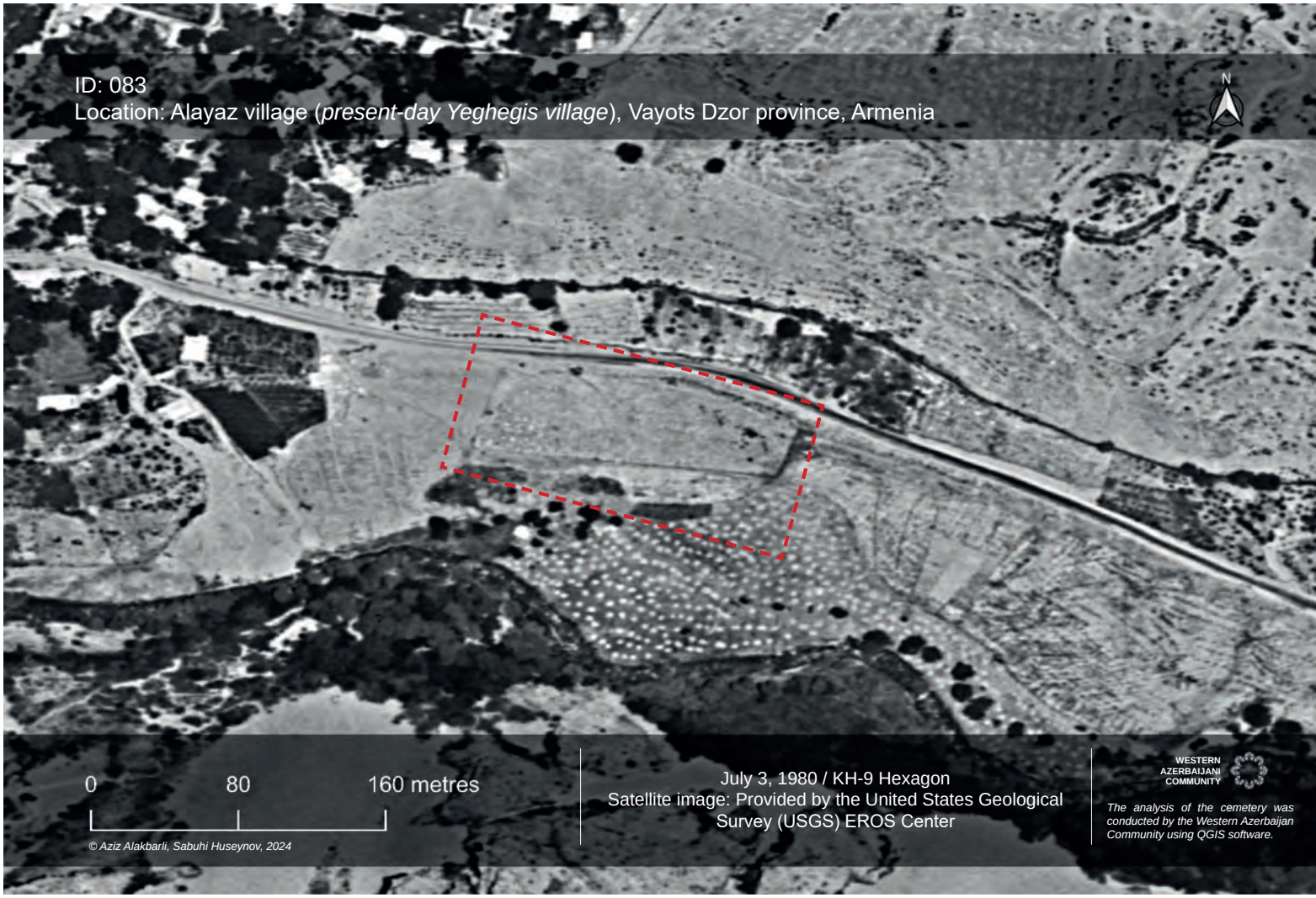
13. *WorldView-2*, August 12, 2016, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7-B (*Shatin*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 083
Location: Alayaz village (*present-day Yeghegis village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 083
Location: Alayaz village (*present-day Yeghegis village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Provided by GeoEye.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

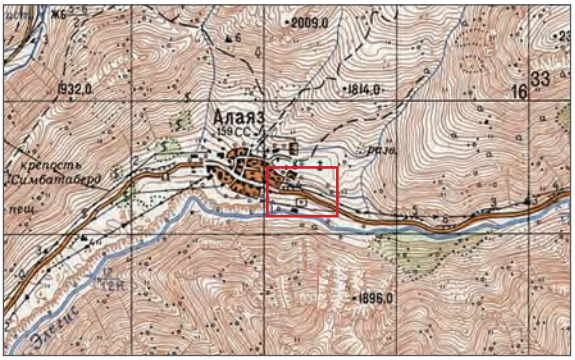
ID: 083
Location: Alayaz village (*present-day Yeghegis village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 12, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 083
Location: Alayaz village (*present-day Yeghegis village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



2019 PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

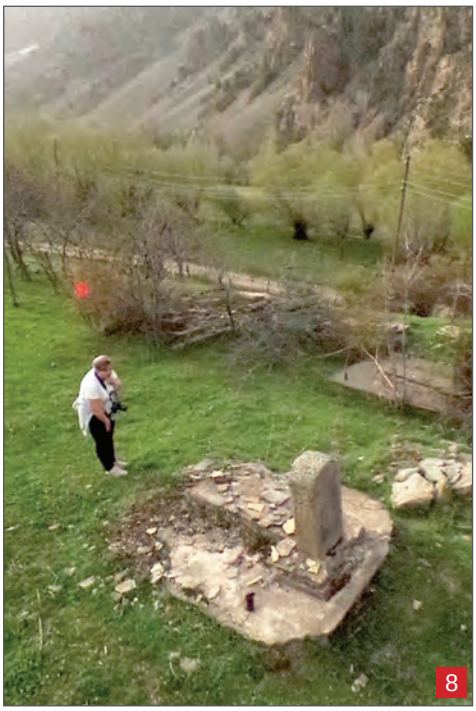
5

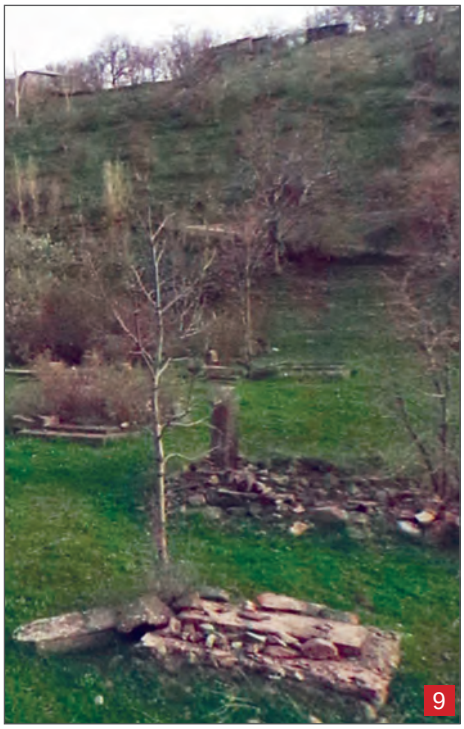
6

© Alexander Lapshin, 2019

2022 PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

7


8


9

10

11

© Evgeniy Alenov, April 2022

12

13

14

15

16

© Evgeniy Alenov, April 2022

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Chiva Village Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Chiva village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Chiva village (Armenian)
ID: 047 [MC-140], 39.7631075, 45.1394212

Chiva was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on both banks of the Yelpin river, a right tributary of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 562 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Gozluja village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In 1920, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, a total of 1,000 residents, comprising 150 families, including the village residents and those who had relocated from other villages to save their lives were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon their village.[5] Following the Armenian attacks in 1920, Armenian refugees brought from the territory of present-day Turkiye were resettled in the areas vacated by the displaced local population. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Chiva village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, a total of 391 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside the Armenian refugees.[7] In 1951, 543 Azerbaijani residents of Chiva village were deported to the Barda district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] After 1953, a portion of the deported population returned and resettled in their native village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Chiva village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis, the cemetery spanned an area of 1 hectare, with its tombstones identified primarily through a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 18, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that significant alterations occurred in the cemetery between 1989 and 2006. Earthmoving activities were carried out in the southeastern and southwestern sections, and tombstones were cleared from the area. Analysis of satellite imagery dated 2006 and 2009[12] (GeoEye-1) revealed the construction of two structures in the central part of the site, as well as a large farm built in the southeastern section. Traces of heavy machinery and extensive earthmoving activities were identified across much of the site. These activities ultimately resulted in the complete destruction of the cemetery.

These processes reflect a deliberate effort to erase the cultural and historical memory of a community, carried out in the context of ethnically motivated conflict and historical assaults. The Chiva Cemetery was a site of considerable historical and cultural significance, with a history spanning nearly 300 years. However, over time, the physical structure of the site was completely destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the southern part of the village, on a high hill north of the road. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[13] and 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Ibid,* 129.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g., ch.* 2 (1-i god izdaniia), ed. A. I. Stavrovskogo (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi, IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998)*, 96; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/76
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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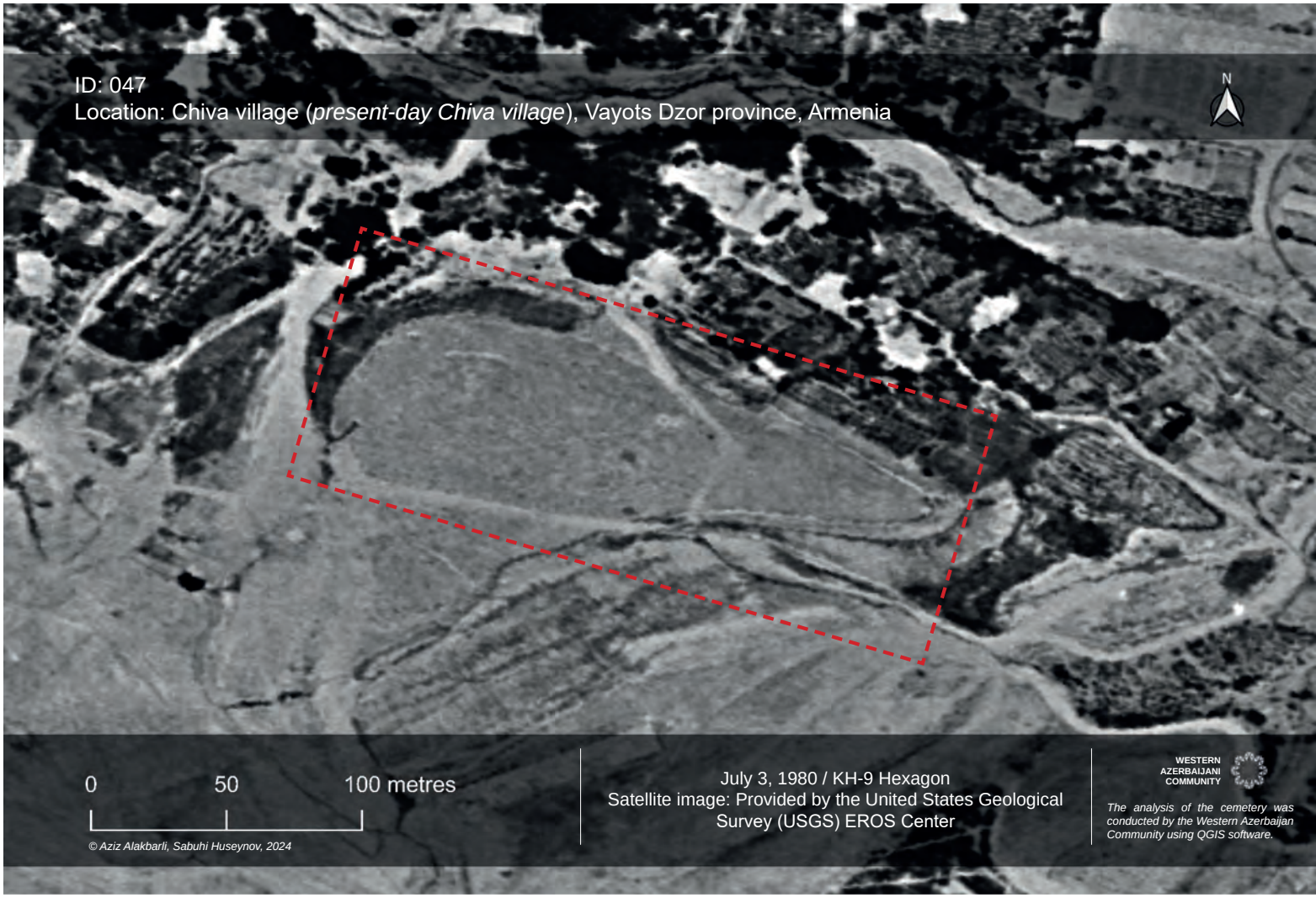
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, August 18, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *GeoEye-1*, December 04, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVII-36 (*Keshishkend*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
14. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7 (*Ekhegnadzor*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1974.


ID: 047
Location: Chiva village (*present-day Chiva village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 047
Location: Chiva village (*present-day Chiva village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 18, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 047
Location: Chiva village (*present-day Chiva village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
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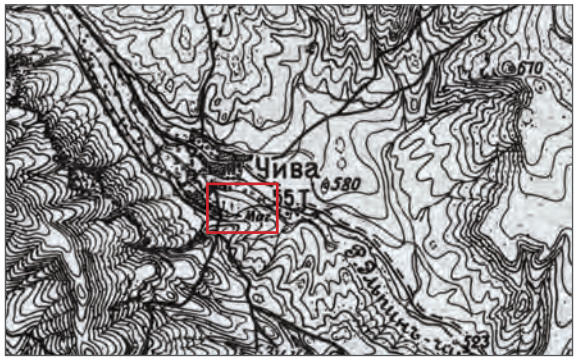
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
December 4, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 047
Location: Chiva village (*present-day Chiva village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 5, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

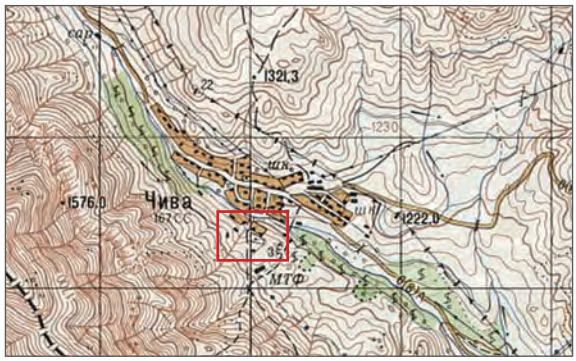
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR.



1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1997 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Gadikvang Village Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Gadikvang village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Getikvank village (Armenian)
ID: 077 [MC-131], 39.9250442, 45.5076392

Gadikvang was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located near the Alagoz river, on the bank of the Erdapin river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also identified as '*Goturvang*', '*Godukhvang*', and '*Gedikvang*'. Subsequent statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 138 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Alayaz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In June 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, approximately 1,000 people—including the residents of the village and Azerbaijani refugees from other villages who had sought shelter there, comprising around 70 families—were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Gadikvang village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 71 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 600 Azerbaijani residents of Gadikvang village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian violence and crimes.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.38 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and July 31, 2009[10] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2009.

To narrow the timeframe and determine the approximate date of this obliteration, the authors converted spectral imagery from the 3rd and 4th bands of the Landsat 5 satellite into NDVI values, allowing them to track vegetation changes in the area between 1989 and 2009. A sharp decline in NDVI values between 1997 and 2000 indicates that events occurred during this period that hindered vegetation growth. This may have been the result of the gradual destruction of the cemetery and the commencement of earthmoving activities on the site.

The outcomes of this destruction were more clearly reflected in photographs taken in 2018 by Armenian journalist Garegin Aleksanyan during a visit to the site (Images Nos. 1-6).[11] By analyzing these photographs, the authors identified that only one tombstone in the cemetery area, the grave of Ibrahim Mahammad oglu Huseynov (1877–1977) was intact at the time. The fate of this grave after 2018 remains unknown. Fragments of two additional broken headstones were also identified in the area. All other tombstones had been removed from the cemetery.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the northern part of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000[12] and 1:100,000[13] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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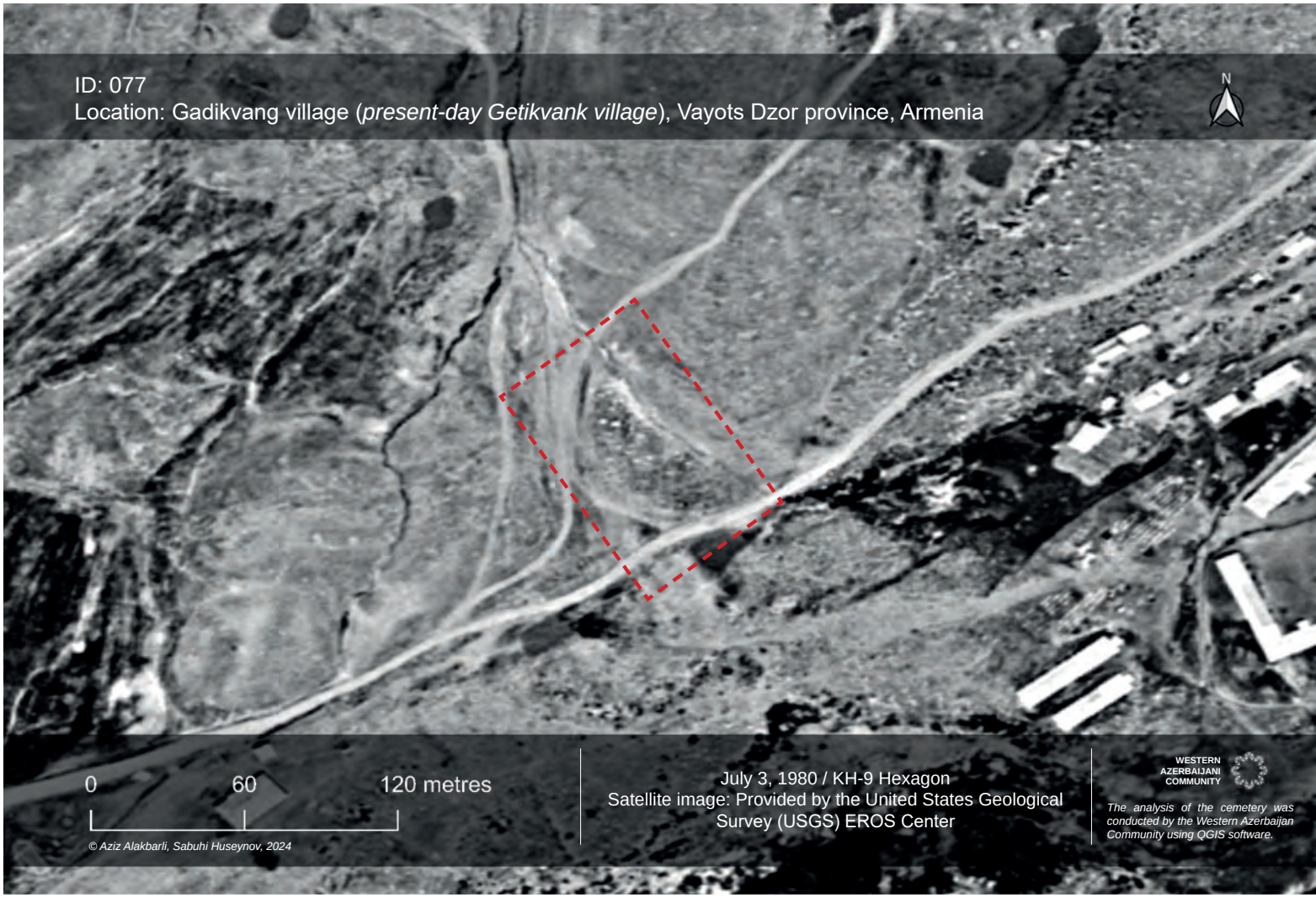
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-7 (*Dzhermuk*) [map], 1:100,000, 1974.


ID: 077
Location: Gadikvang village (*present-day Getikvank village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 077
Location: Gadikvang village (*present-day Getikvank village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
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120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 077
Location: Gadikvang village (*present-day Getikvank village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
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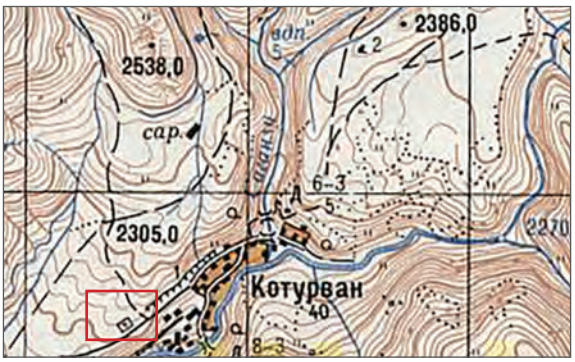
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

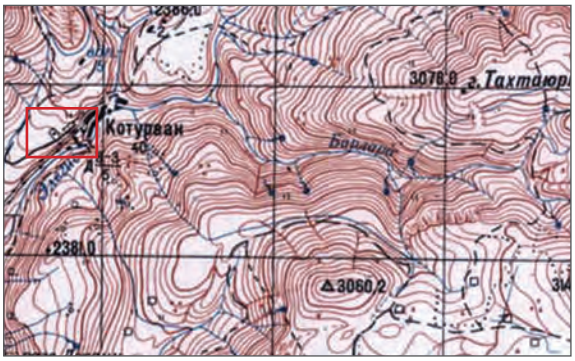
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1974

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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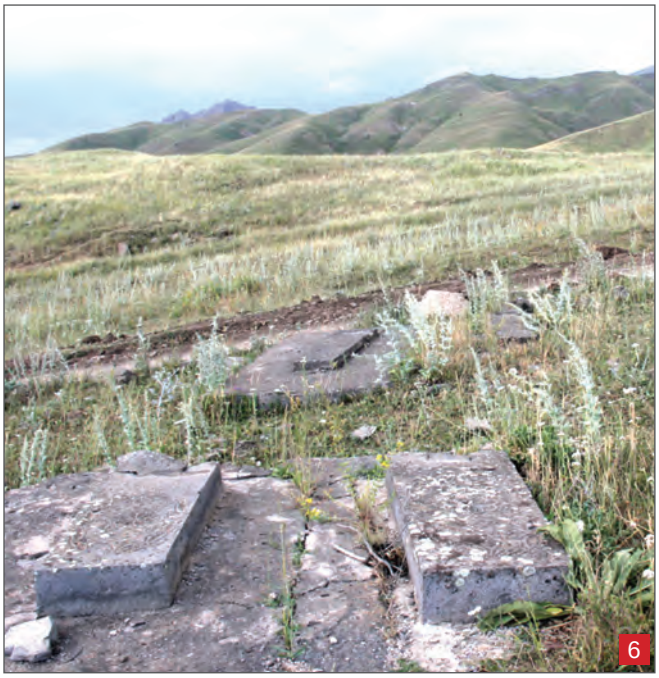
3

4

5


6

© Champord, 2018

From 2009 to 2019

Status: OBLITERATED

Gabakhli Village New Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Gabakhli village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Goghtanik village (Armenian)
ID: 072 [MC-087], 39.8749839, 45.458312

Gabakhli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the left bank of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also identified as 'Ashaghi Jani'. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 614 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Alayaz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, approximately 2,000 people—including the residents of the village and Azerbaijani refugees from other villages who had sought shelter there, comprising around 100 families—were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Gabakhli village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 59 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gabakhli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Gabakhli village was renamed Goghtanik.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[10] and July 3, 1980[11] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis, the cemetery covered an area of 1.2 hectares. Most of the tombstones were identified in the southern section, while in other parts of the site, they were identified through a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern. The cemetery area was enclosed by a fence. This also showed that the cemetery was well maintained during that period.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and July 31, 2009[12] (GeoEye-1) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis results, despite the damages, the cemetery existed as of 2009. The destruction of many tombstones in the cemetery area is visible, but some tombstones were still found to remain intact. This shows that, although the cemetery was partially destroyed during that period, some traces still remained.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 and 2022[13] (CNES/Airbus) revealed further deterioration in the condition of the cemetery and disappearance of most tombstones. This revealed that the cemetery had been completely obliterated, with no historical traces left behind.

The results of the comparative analysis suggest that from 1989 to 2019, the cemetery was subjected to continuous vandalism and was ultimately destroyed, except for a few individual graves and their headstones partially preserved as of 2024.

GEOLOCATION:

The Gabakhli village cemetery is located to the west of the village, at an elevation of 1,790 meters above sea level, on the right side of the road leading to the village. The cemetery is clearly visible in the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000[14] and 1:100,000 scales[15]). Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 128.
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5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi, IV. cilt (1920–1922)* (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/76.
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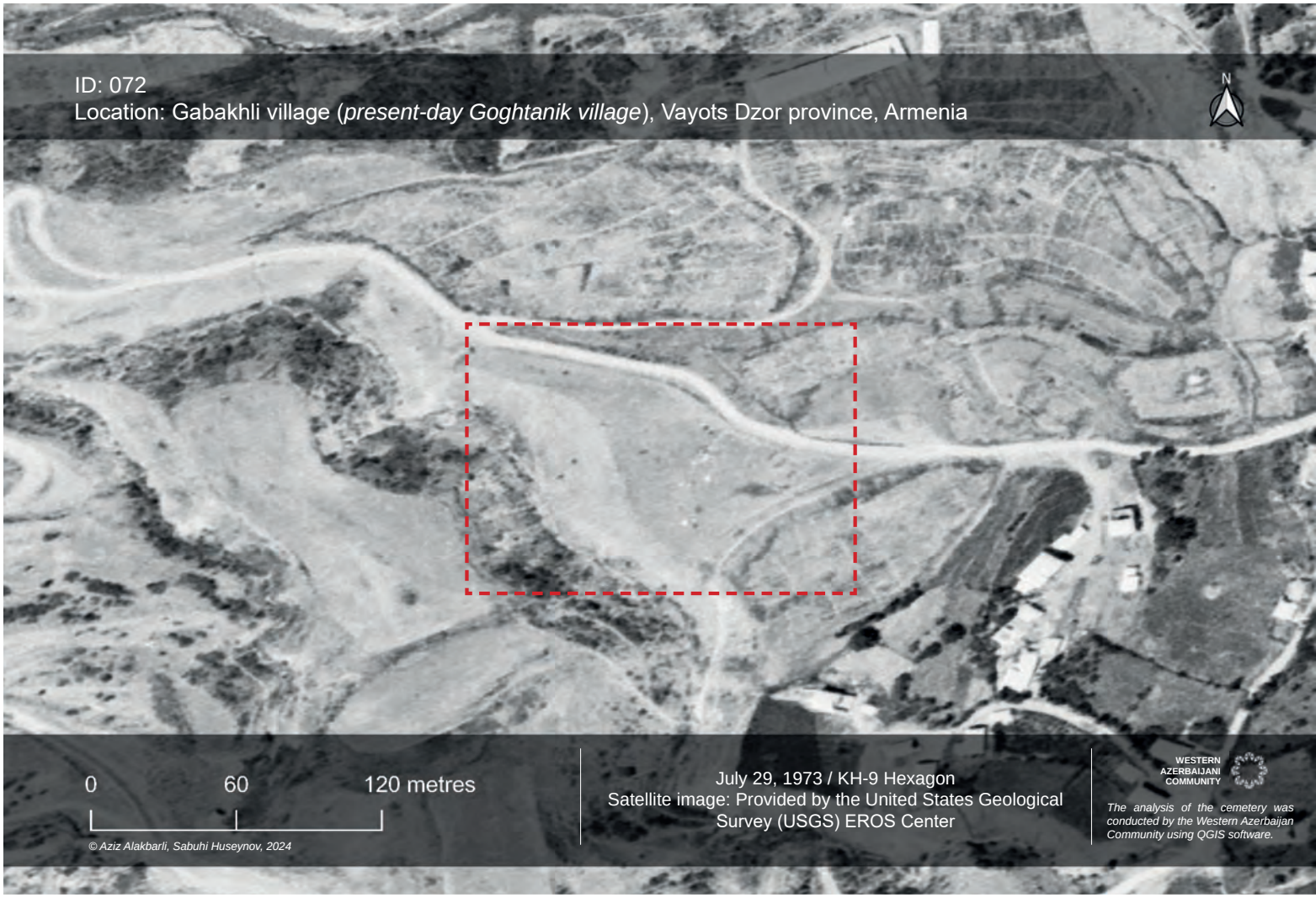
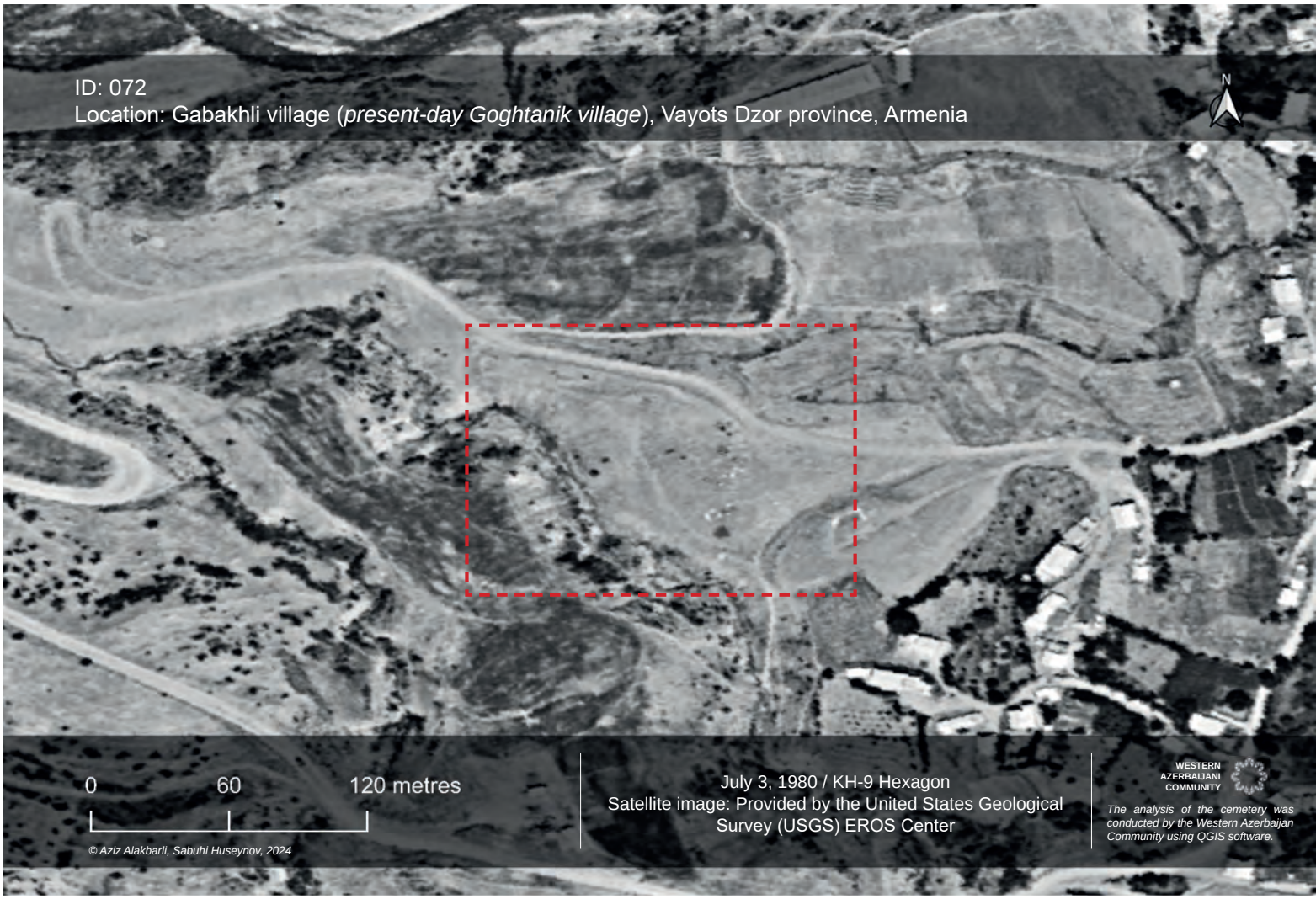
14. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7-B (*Shatin*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7 (*Ekhegnadzor*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1974.


ID: 072
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.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N
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60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 072
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 072
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 13, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Provided by CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1974

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 2009 to 2016

Status: OBLITERATED

Gabakhli Village Old Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Gabakhli village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Goghtanik village (Armenian)
ID: 073 [MC-130], 39.8759341, 45.4566409

Gabakhli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the left bank of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also identified as '*Ashaghi Jani*'. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *614 Azerbaijani* residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the *Alayaz* village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the *Sharur-Daralayaz uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, approximately *2,000 people*—including the residents of the village and Azerbaijani refugees from other villages who had sought shelter there, comprising around *100 families*—were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Gabakhli village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, *59 Azerbaijanis* returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gabakhli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Gabakhli village was renamed *Goghtanik*.[9]

Numerous tombstones featuring ram and horse figures once existed in the old cemetery of the village. Literature from the period of the Armenian SSR contains information about the gradual theft and removal of these tombstones.[10] A photograph featuring one of those ram-shaped tombstones, which once stood in the old cemetery of Gabakhli village, has been documented. The inscription on the monument was deciphered by Mashadikhanim Nematova.[11]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

A spatial analysis conducted using KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 27, 1973[12] and July 3, 1980[13] (*at right*) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Based on the results of these analyses, the cemetery area and its tombstones were characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and July 31, 2009[14] (GeoEye-1) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was completely destroyed at some point between 1989 and 2009.

A further comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2009 and 2016[15] (WorldView-2) revealed that the cemetery area had been subjected to encroachment, including the establishment of a garden and the construction of a residential structure. This demonstrated that the cemetery area had been utilized for agricultural purposes. Consequently, this led to the destruction of the area's cultural heritage and historical value.

GEOLOCATION:

The old cemetery of Gabakhli village was located in the southern part of the village, on the bank of the Alayaz river, at an elevation of 1,760 meters above sea level. In the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980, the cemetery appears as a heterogeneous, patchy surface typical of the region's terrain. Additionally, this site was marked on a Soviet military-topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and determined its precise coordinates.

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8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 342.
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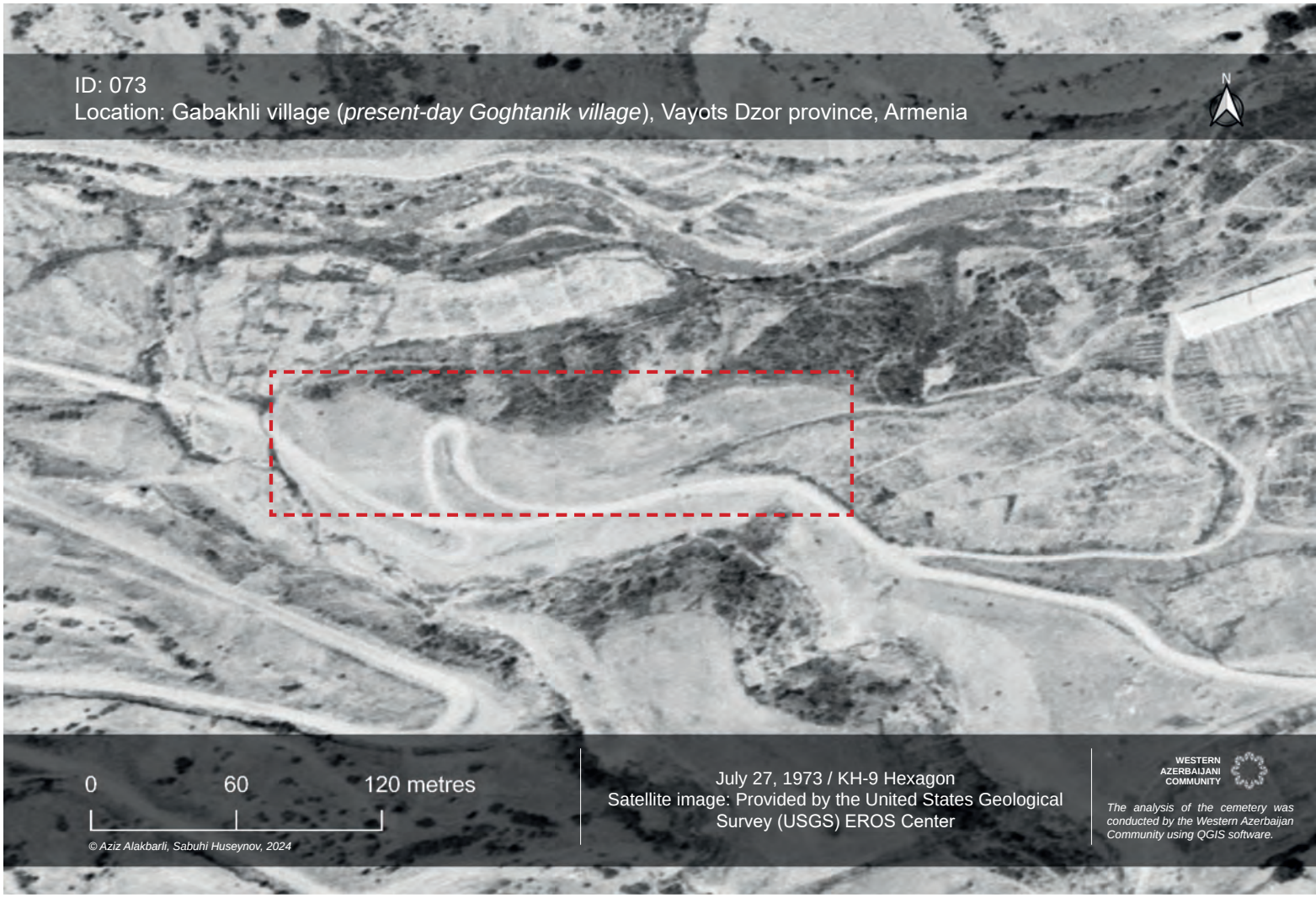
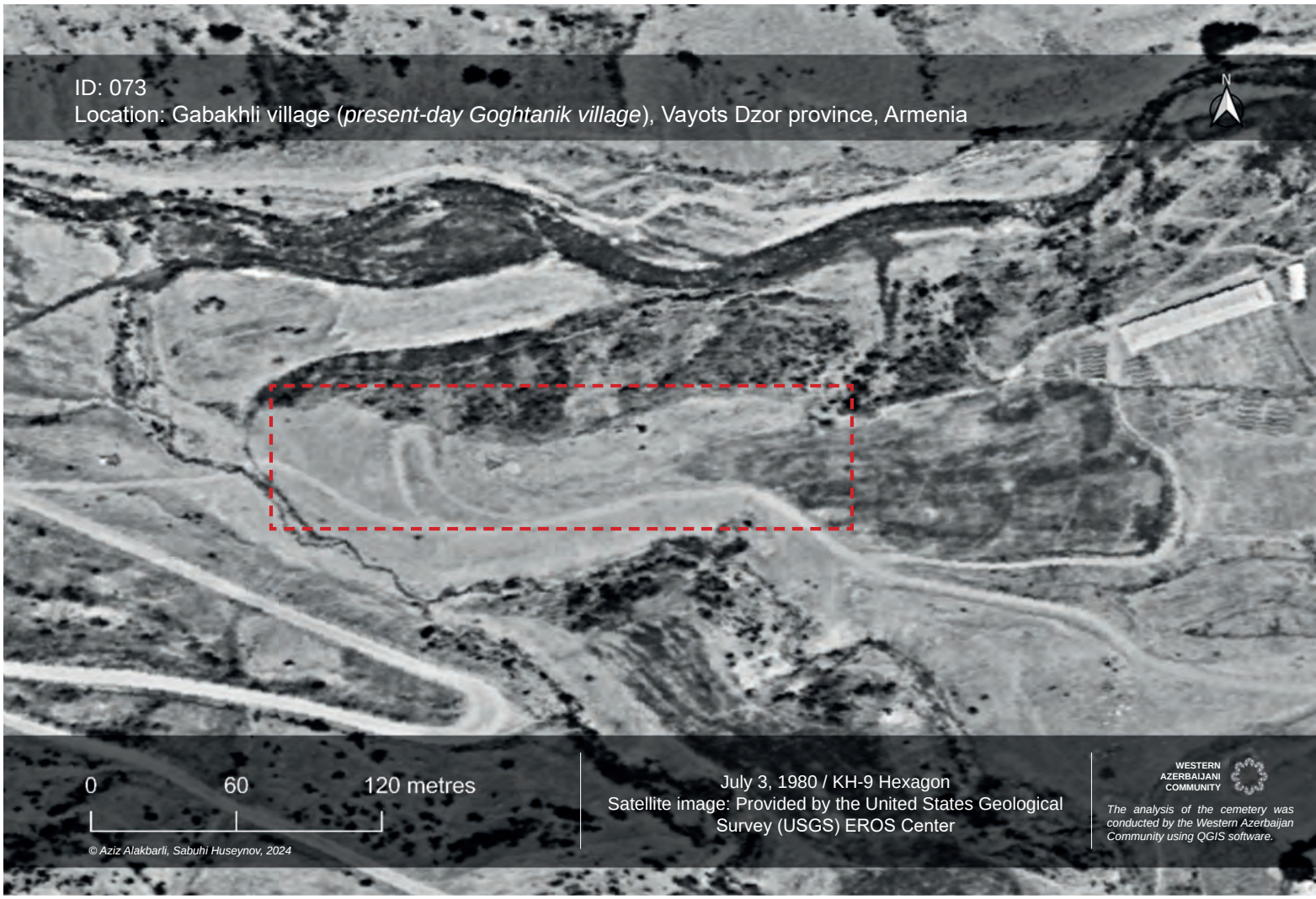
12. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138F002*, July 27, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
13. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138F002*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
14. GeoEye-1, July 31, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
15. *WorldView-2*, August 12, 2016, Maxar via Google Earth.
16. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7-B (*Shatin*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 073
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 27, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 073
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 073
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2009 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 073
Location: Gabakhli village (*present-day Goghtanik village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 2009 to 2019

Status: OBLITERATED

Garagaya Village Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Garagaya village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Sevazhayr village (Armenian)
ID: 076 [MC-086], 39.9105132, 45.4807816

Garagaya was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the southern slope of the Garagaya mountin, on the bank of the Garagaya river, a right tributary of the Alagoz river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 177 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Alagoz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the *Sharur-Daralayaz uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, approximately 1,000 people—including the residents of the village and Azerbaijani refugees from other villages who had sought shelter there, comprising around 70 families—were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Garagaya village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 193 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garagaya village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] Garagaya village was renamed Sevazhayr.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.3 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and July 31, 2009[10] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was entirely destroyed and obliterated between 1989 and 2009.

Among the tombstones in the cemetery, only five monuments had identifiable headstone shadows. Many of the grave slabs were found to have been reoriented. This confirmed that substantial destruction had occurred in the cemetery by 2009. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 to 2019[11] confirmed that destruction also extended to the grave slabs that were still visible in 2009 imagery.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located on the right side of the road leading to Garagaya village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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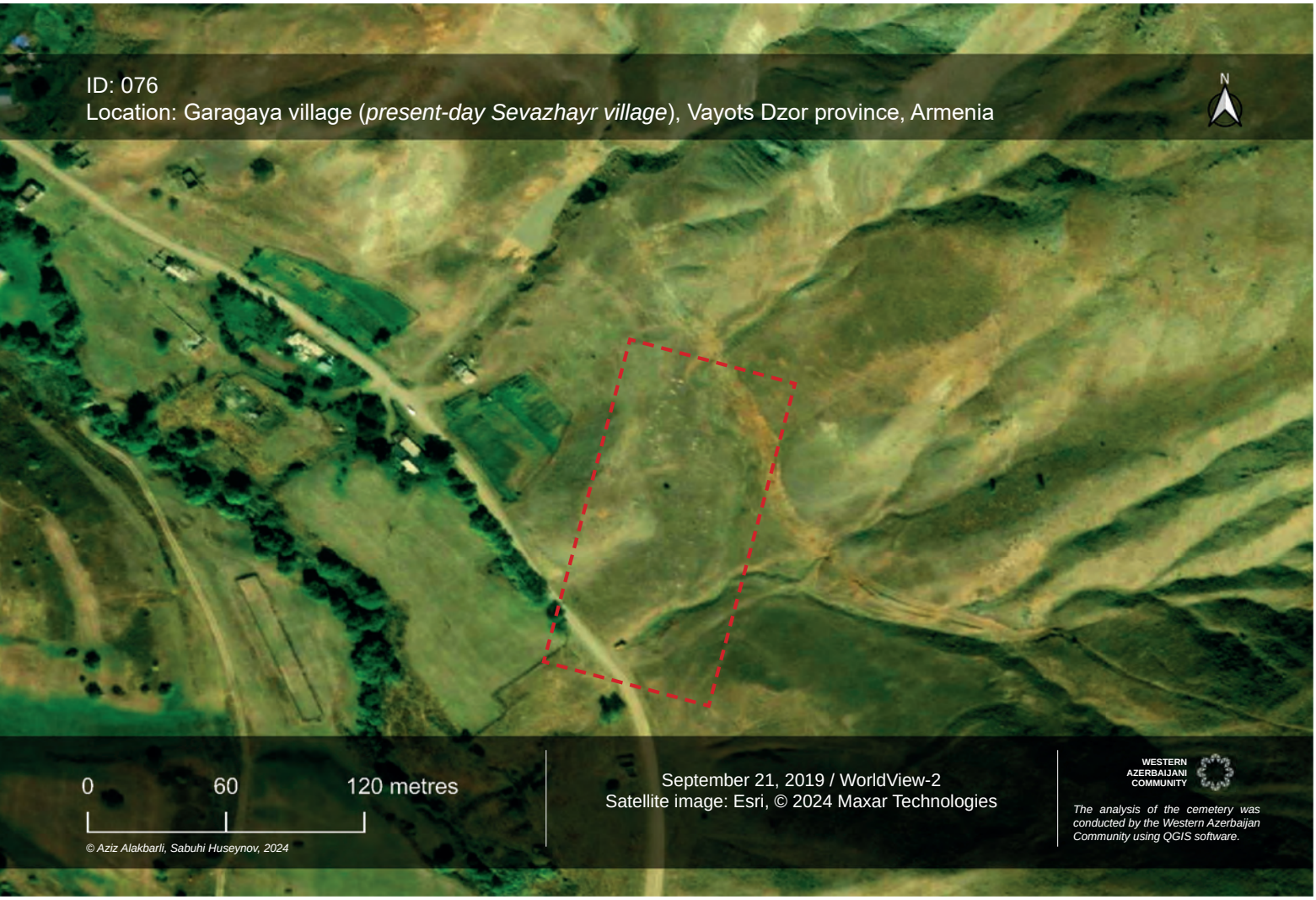
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ci il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 352.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138F002*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. July 31, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *WorldView-2*, September 21, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7-B *(Shatin)* [map], 1:50,000, 1974.

ID: 076
Location: Garagaya village (*present-day Sevazhayr village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

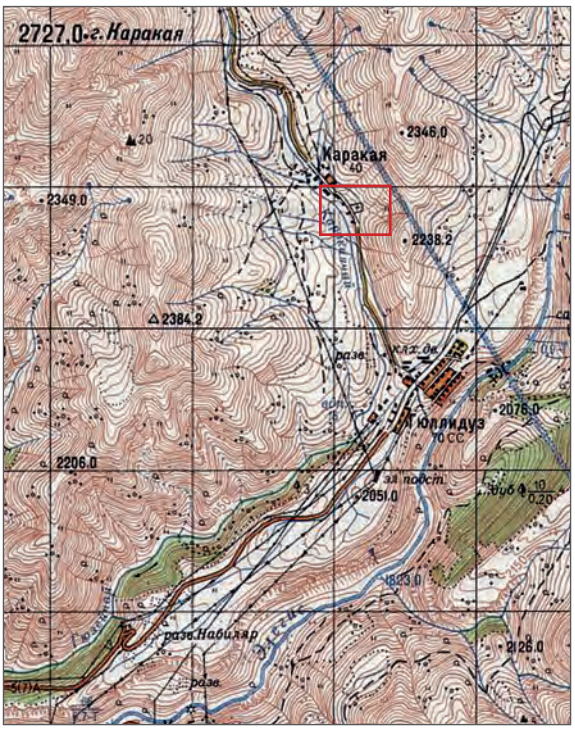
ID: 076
Location: Garagaya village (*present-day Sevazhayr village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2009 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 076
Location: Garagaya village (*present-day Sevazhayr village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 21, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

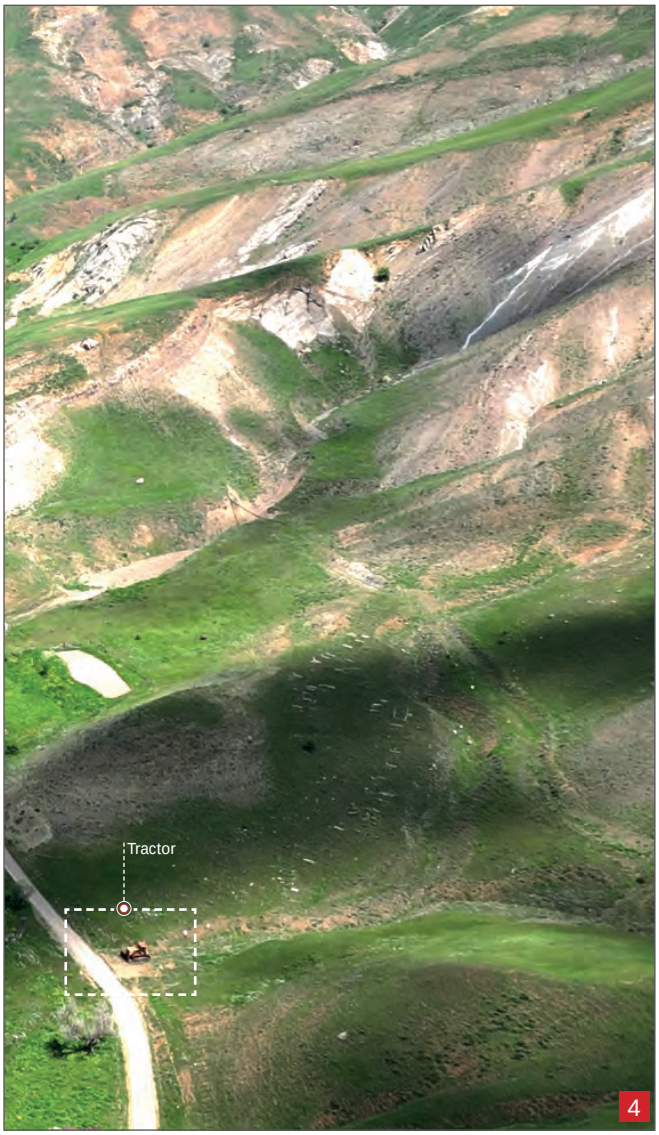


CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3



4

From 2009 to 2016

Status: OBLITERATED

Govushug Village Cemetery

Location: Keshishkend district, Govushug village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Hermon village (Armenian)
ID: 082 [MC-128; MC-129], 39.874237, 45.417482 / 39.874283, 45.415477

Govushug was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the bank of the Alagoz river. It was incorporated into Keshishkend district on December 15, 1931, Mikoyan district on January 3, 1935, and Yeghegnadzor district on December 6, 1957. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also identified as '*Gavushug*' and '*Kavushug*'. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 172 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Alagoz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In June 1919, the village came under Armenian attack. Consequently, approximately 500 people—including the residents of the village and Azerbaijani refugees from other villages who had sought shelter there, comprising around 50 families—were killed, and the surviving population was forced to abandon the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Govushug village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 138 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 800 Azerbaijani residents of Govushug village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Govushug village was renamed Hermon.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 3, 1980[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Based on the results of these analyses, the cemetery area and its tombstones were characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface. During this period, road construction divided the cemetery into two parts, disrupting its historical and physical integrity.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and July 31, 2009[11] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that significant destruction took place in the cemetery between 1989 and 2009. Although the vast majority of tombstones were still visible in the 2009 imagery, the absence of shadows from their headstones suggests that they were either destroyed or damaged. This reveals evidence of acts of vandalism perpetrated against the cemetery.

A comparison of satellite imagery dated 2009 and August 12, 2016[12] (WorldView-2), demonstrates significant changes to the cemetery area during this interval. The 2016 imagery revealed that the tombstones no longer existed. These changes indicate the complete obliteration and systematic destruction of the cemetery.

Thus, the comparative analyses have shown that following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the cemetery was systematically destroyed between 1989 and 2009. Between 2009 and 2016, the process of entirely removing the tombstones was completed. This process resulted in severe destruction of both historical and cultural heritage, demonstrating the continuous nature of acts of vandalism.[13]

GEOLOCATION:

The Govushug cemeteries are located west of the village, on both sides of the road leading from Alayaz village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000[14] and 1:100,000[15] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 128.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi, IV. cilt (1920–1922)* (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95; original source: BOA,HR.SYS 2878/76
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
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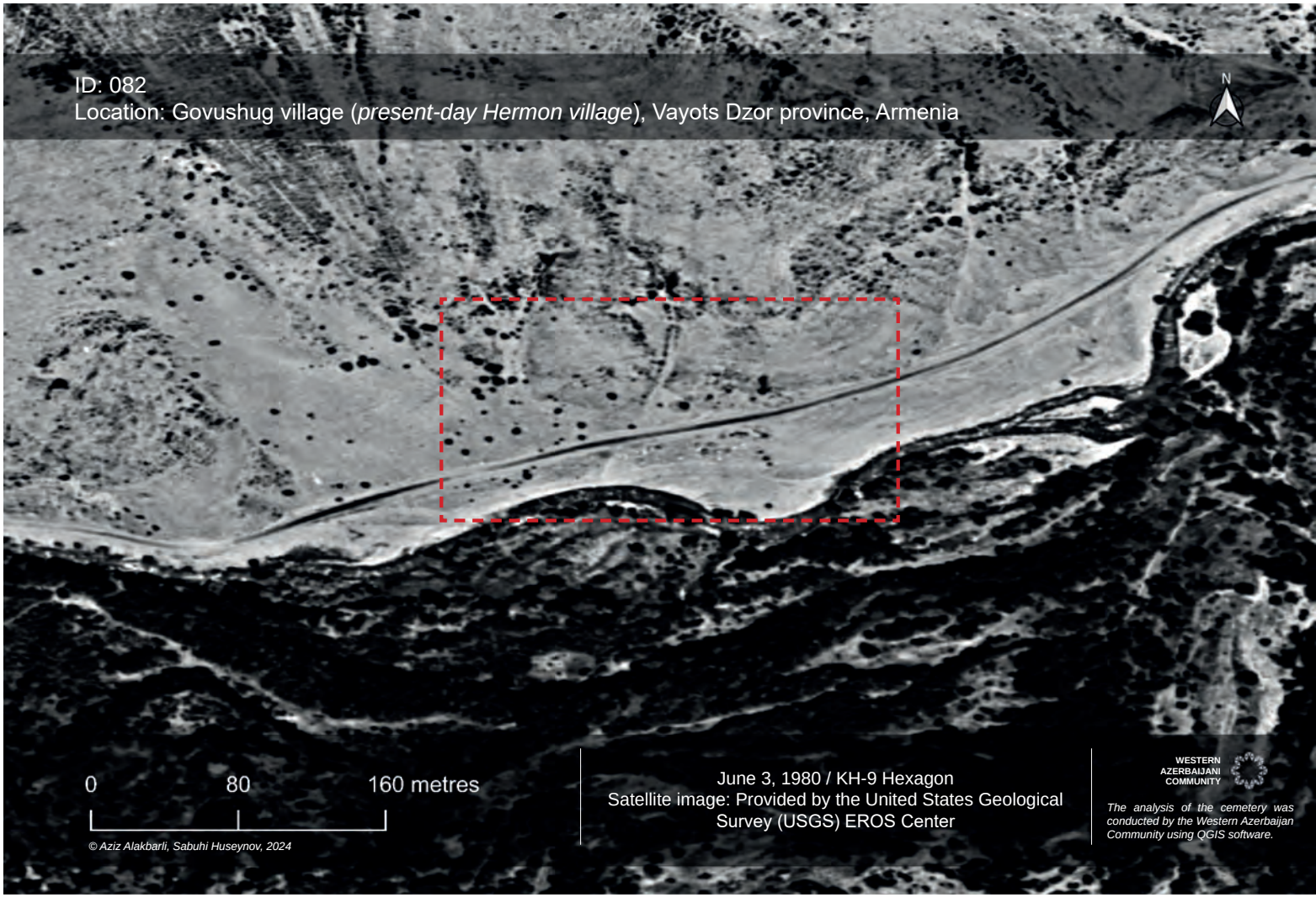
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 346.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A003*, July 03 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *GeoEye-1*, July 31, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. *WorldView-2*, August 12, 2016, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. October 10, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-7-B (Shatin)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-7 (Yekhegnadzor)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1974.


ID: 082
Location: Govushug village (*present-day Hermon village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 082
Location: Govushug village (*present-day Hermon village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

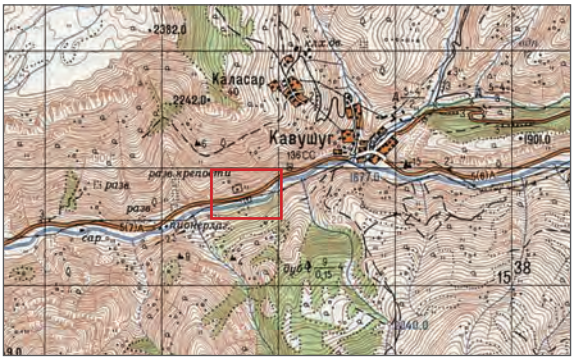
ID: 082
Location: Govushug village (*present-day Hermon village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 12, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 082
Location: Govushug village (*present-day Hermon village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

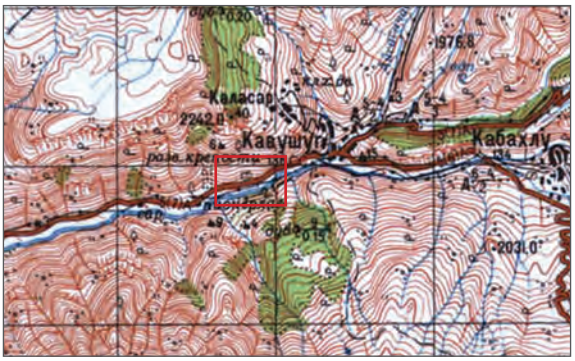
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

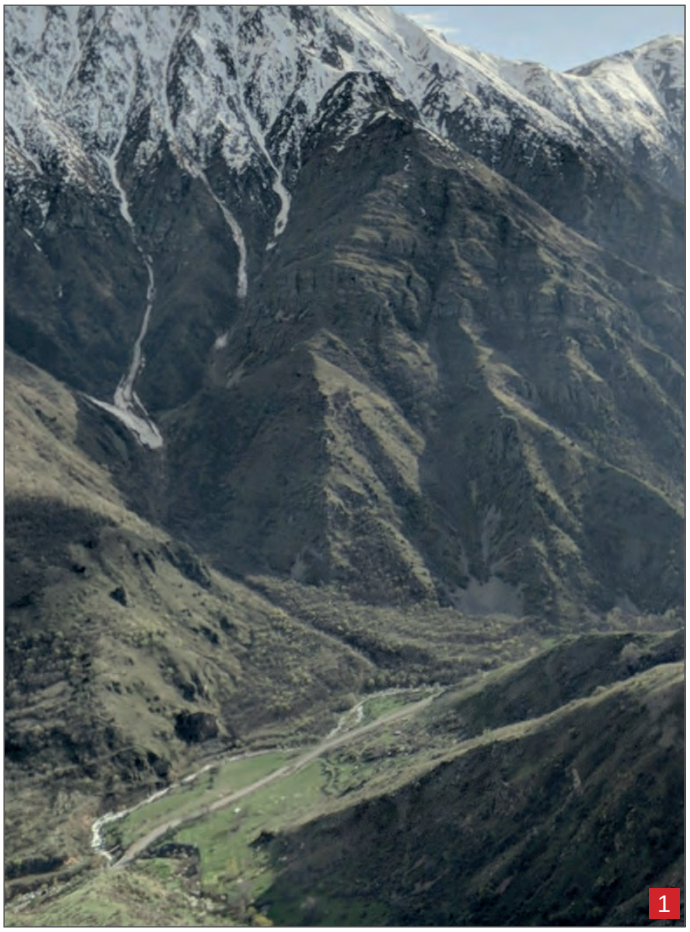


1974

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

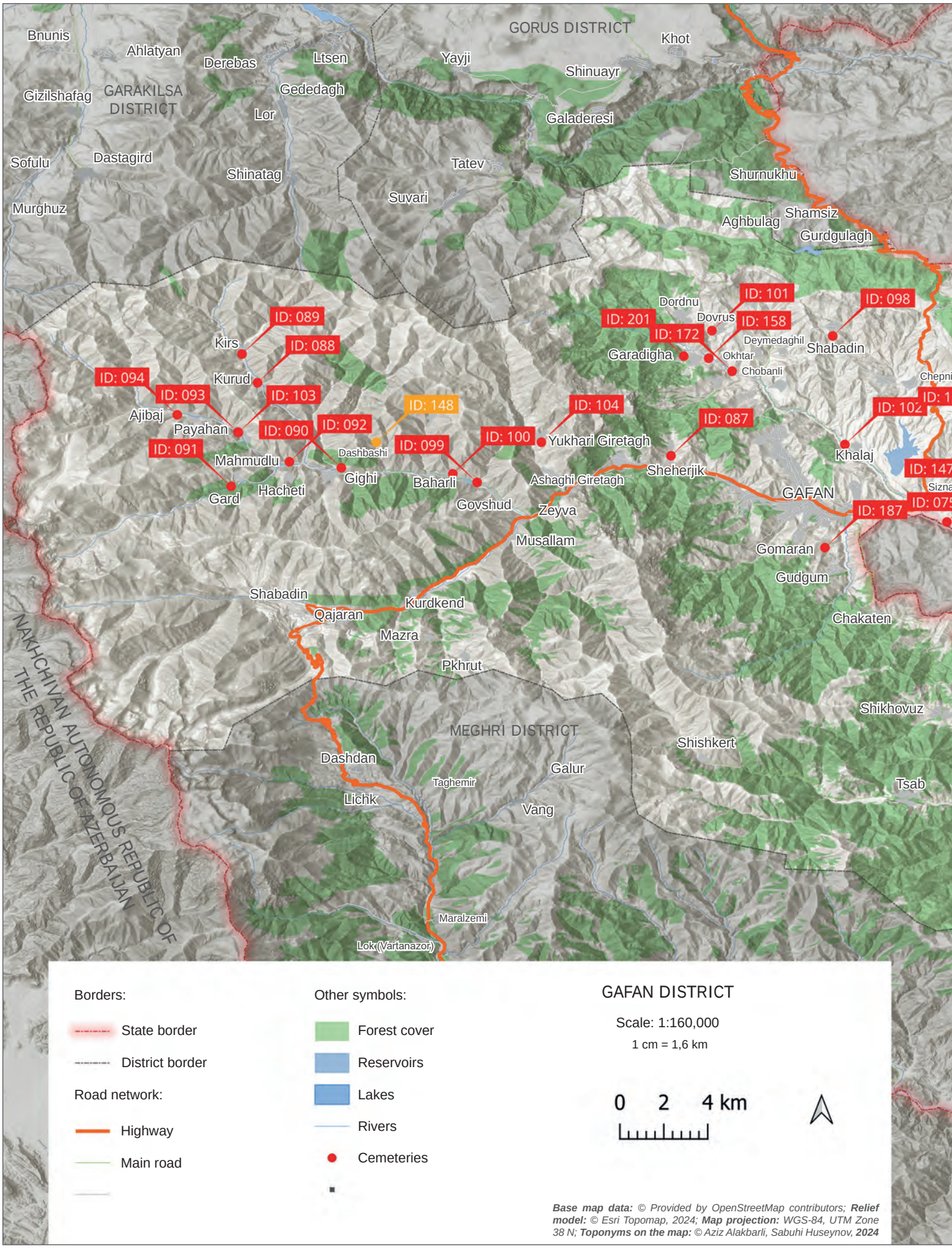


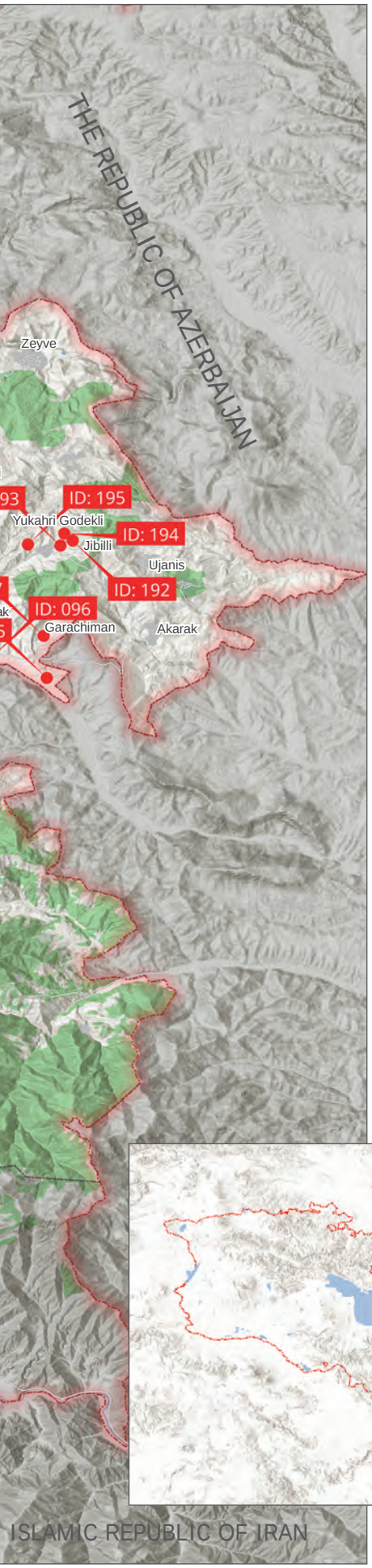
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:


1

2

3


Bnunis
Ahlatyan
Derebas
Ltsen
Yayji
GORUS DISTRICT
Khot
Shinuayr
Gizilshafag
GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Gededagh
Lor
Galaderesi
Sofulu
Dastagird
Shinatag
Tatev
Shurnukhu
Murghuz
Suvari
Aghbulag
Shamsiz
Gurdgulagh
Dordnu
ID: 101
ID: 098
ID: 201
Dovrus
ID: 158
ID: 089
Kirs
ID: 088
ID: 172
Deymedaghil
Shabadin
Garadigha
Okhtar
Chobanli
ID: 094
Kurud
Chepni
ID: 093
ID: 103
ID: 148
ID: 104
ID: 102
Ajibaj
Payahan
ID: 087
ID: 090
ID: 092
ID: 100
Yukhari Giretagh
ID: 091
Dashbashi
ID: 099
Khalaj
Mahmudlu
Sheherjik
ID: 147
Gighi
Baharli
Ashaghi Giretagh
Sizna
Hacheti
GAFAN
Gard
Govshud
ID: 187
ID: 075
Zeyva
Musallam
Gomaran
Gudgum
Shabadin
Kurdkend
Qajaran
Chakaten
Mazra
Pkhrut
NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Shikhovuz
MEGHRI DISTRICT
Shishkert
Dashdan
Galur
Taghemir
Tsab
Lichk
Vang
Maralzemi
Lok (Vartanazor)
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
GAFAN DISTRICT
Scale: 1:160,000
1 cm = 1,6 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



GAFAN DISTRICT

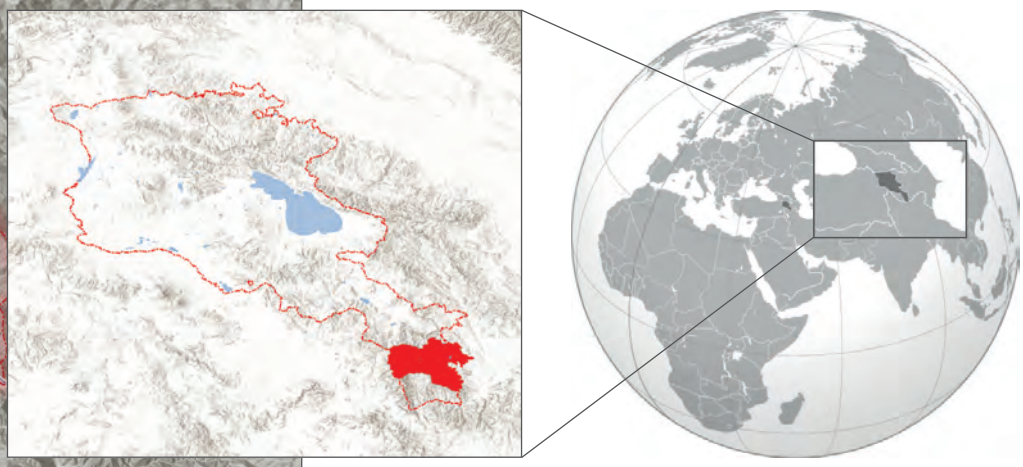
Historical-geographical region: Gafan *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Gafan district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930
Area: 1,345 sq. km

The administrative center of the district was the city of Gafan, a city under direct republican administration, located 320 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1970 records, the district included one city under direct republican administration, one city under district administration, 19 village councils, and 58 residential settlements. The district population (*excluding Gafan city, A.A., S.H.*) was 26,700, with 10,800 residing in urban areas and 15,900 in rural areas. According to 1970 records, the population of Gafan city alone was 30,000.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Achaghu, Ajibaj, Ashaghi Giratagh, Ashaghi Godakli, Ashaghi Piri-li, Baharli, Bakdash, Jibilli, Chobanli (Hunut), Dashbashi, Dovrus, Gard, Gighi, Gomaran, Hachati, Gajaran, Kirs, Kurud, Mahmudlu, Mollali, Musallam, Okhtar, Payhanli, Gafan, Garabaghlilar, Garachiman, Garadigha, Govshud, Gushchulug, Shabadin, Shaharjik, Siznak, Syunik, Khalaj, Yukhari Godakli, Yukhari Giratagh, and Yukhari Purulu.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Syunik province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Ajibaj Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Ajibaj village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Ajabaj village (Armenian)
ID: 094 [MC-501], 39.252777, 46.074897

Ajibaj was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located at the foot of the Bargushad mountain range, on the bank of the Ajibaj river, a left tributary of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*).

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[2] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians. During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 77 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[4]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On December 4, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Ajibaj village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Ajibaj village was renamed Ajabaj.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.21 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[8] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. Only the remnants of two tombstones were identified within the entire cemetery area.

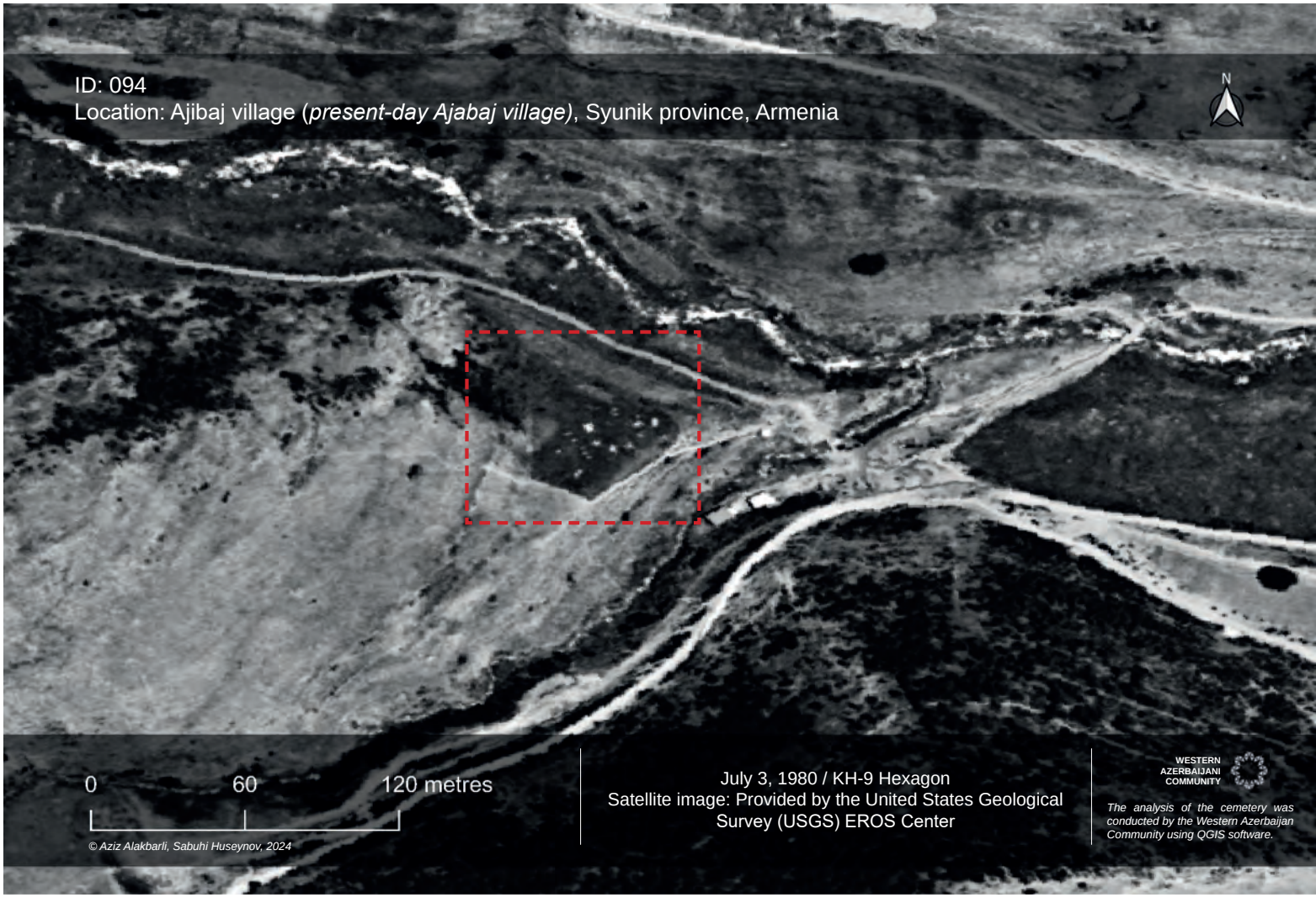
Based on a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and September 14, 2016[9] (GeoEye-1), the authors established that, by the latter date, a large reservoir had been constructed in the riverbed in the southern part of the cemetery area, and the course of the river had been redirected to pass through this southern section. As a result of earthmoving operations carried out using bulldozers and excavators, the cemetery was obliterated.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located west of the village, on the right bank of the Gighi river. This site was most likely not marked on Soviet topographic maps due to its small size. However, during landscape analysis conducted by the authors on 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery, the cemetery was identified approximately 500 meters west of Ajibaj village, on the right bank of the Gighi river.

REFERENCES:

1. Musa Urud, *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 27.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 132-133.
5. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 307.
6. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Esri Map.
9. *GeoEye-1*, September 14, 2016, Maxar via Esri Map.


ID: 094
Location: Ajibaj village (*present-day Ajabaj village)*, Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 094
Location: Ajibaj village (*present-day Ajabaj village)*, Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1987 to 1991

Status: OBLITERATED

Baharli Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Baharli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, village obliterated (Armenian)
ID: 100 [MC-107], 39.2218544, 46.2193176

Baharli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located at the foot of the mountains, on the left bank of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 17th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('Kavkazskii kalendar'), the village had 133 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 88 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In 1939, Garabash village was merged with Baharli village. In 1983, 428 Azerbaijanis lived in Baharli. However, between 1983 and 1985, due to the construction of a reservoir on the site of the village to supply the Gejalan copper-molybdenum plant, part of the village population was relocated to Zeyva village, while another part was resettled in the Absheron region of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the residents of Baharli village, who had resettled in Zeyva village, took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis identified the cemetery with its heterogeneous, patchy surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1980 and 2011. Bulldozers were used in the cemetery area, all tombstones were removed, and a road was constructed over the site.

To refine the timeframe and determine the approximate date of this obliteration, the authors converted spectral imagery from the 3rd and 4th bands of the Landsat 5 satellite into NDVI values, allowing them to track vegetation changes in the area between 1984 and 2011. A sharp decline in NDVI values between 1987 and 1989, in some areas reaching levels indicative of a complete absence of vegetation, suggests that events occurred during this period that disrupted plant growth in the area. This may have resulted from the destruction of the cemetery and the subsequent earthmoving operations carried out on the site.

Thus, the process of obliteration that began between 1987 and 1989 was ultimately completed with the construction of the reservoir, which continued even after the deportation. Baharli village was one of the ancient settlements in the region historically inhabited by Azerbaijanis. The village cemetery served as a testament to the local culture, religious beliefs, and the long-standing historical presence of Azerbaijanis. Cemeteries, particularly their ancient tombstones and symbolic carvings, reflect a nation's historical memory, ethnographic characteristics, and the social structures of society. In this regard, the Baharli cemetery represented a rich cultural heritage.

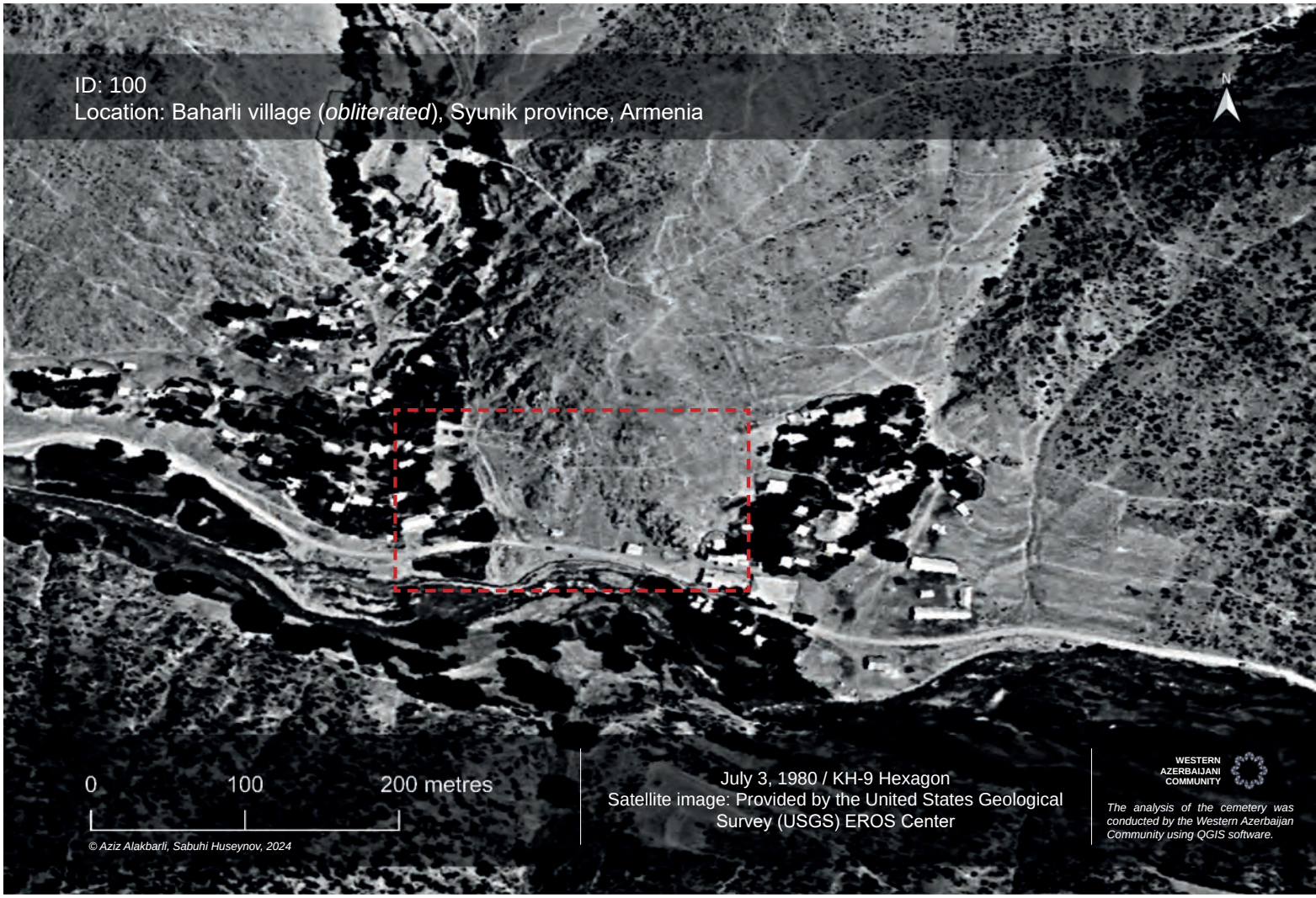
The obliteration of the cemetery was an act aimed at erasing the presence of the Azerbaijani people in the Zangezur region and eliminating all ethnic traces in the area.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 70 meters north of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 65.
2. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. Kamran Ismayilov, *Zängäzurda Azärbayjan xalqï-na qarshï soyqïrïmï (1918-1920)* (Baku: Elm, 2017), 20-21.
6. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 134-135.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 329.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33-A *(Gekhi)* [map], 1:50,000. 1974.
12. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 100
Location: Baharli village (*obliterated*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

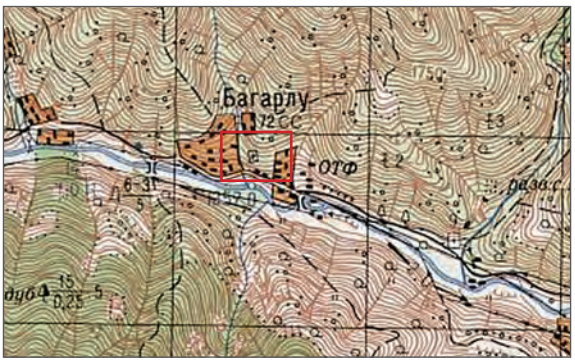
ID: 100
Location: Baharli village (*obliterated*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 100
Location: Baharli village (*obliterated*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 26, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

From 1990 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Chobanli (Hunut) Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Chobanli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Hunud village (Armenian)
ID: 172 [MC-458], 39.275656, 46.365766

Chobanli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the right bank of the Khalaj (*Ejanan, A.A., S.H.*) river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village known as Chobanbaghi as early as the 1590s.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 156 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Chobanli village, which had previously been part of the Norashen village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Chobanli village came under Armenian attack, during which part of its population was killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. From 1924 to 1926, 42 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

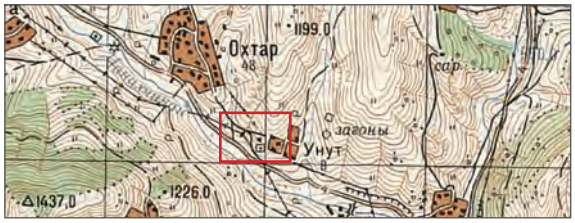
In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Chobanli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

In Azerbaijani-language academic literature, Chobanli and Hunut are presented as separate villages. However, spatial analyses conducted by the authors in the GIS environment revealed that Chobanli and Hunut villages are located at the same coordinates (39.275722, 46.367583) on maps from different periods. Historical sources dated to the 16th–18th centuries and archival documents from the late 19th to early 20th centuries do not confirm the existence of a village named Hunut.

Thus, Chobanbaghi village, later known as Chobanli, was recorded as Hunut on topographic maps compiled as early as the second half of the 20th century. This toponymic change led to the village being known by different names in different periods. Spatial analyses conducted in the GIS environment show that both names refer to the same geographic location. However, this information has not been accurately analyzed in Azerbaijani-language academic literature, where Chobanli and Hunut have been presented as two separate villages. A correct explanation of this fact is essential for the accuracy of historical and geographical research.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. No fence was were identified around the cemetery area. Therefore, its area is estimated to be approximately 0.3 hectares.



A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analyses suggest that the village cemetery was obliterated following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population in 1988. The intensive growth of vegetation in the area provides grounds to assume that destruction occurred between 1990 and 1995.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the west of the village, 50 meters northeast of the Garadigha road. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[10]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2016), 371.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 207.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. "*O vooruzhennom napadenii otriada armyan na musul'manskoe selenie Chobanlu Zangezurskogo uezda, 1918*," ARDA, f.1061, op.1, d. 82, ll. 5–6.
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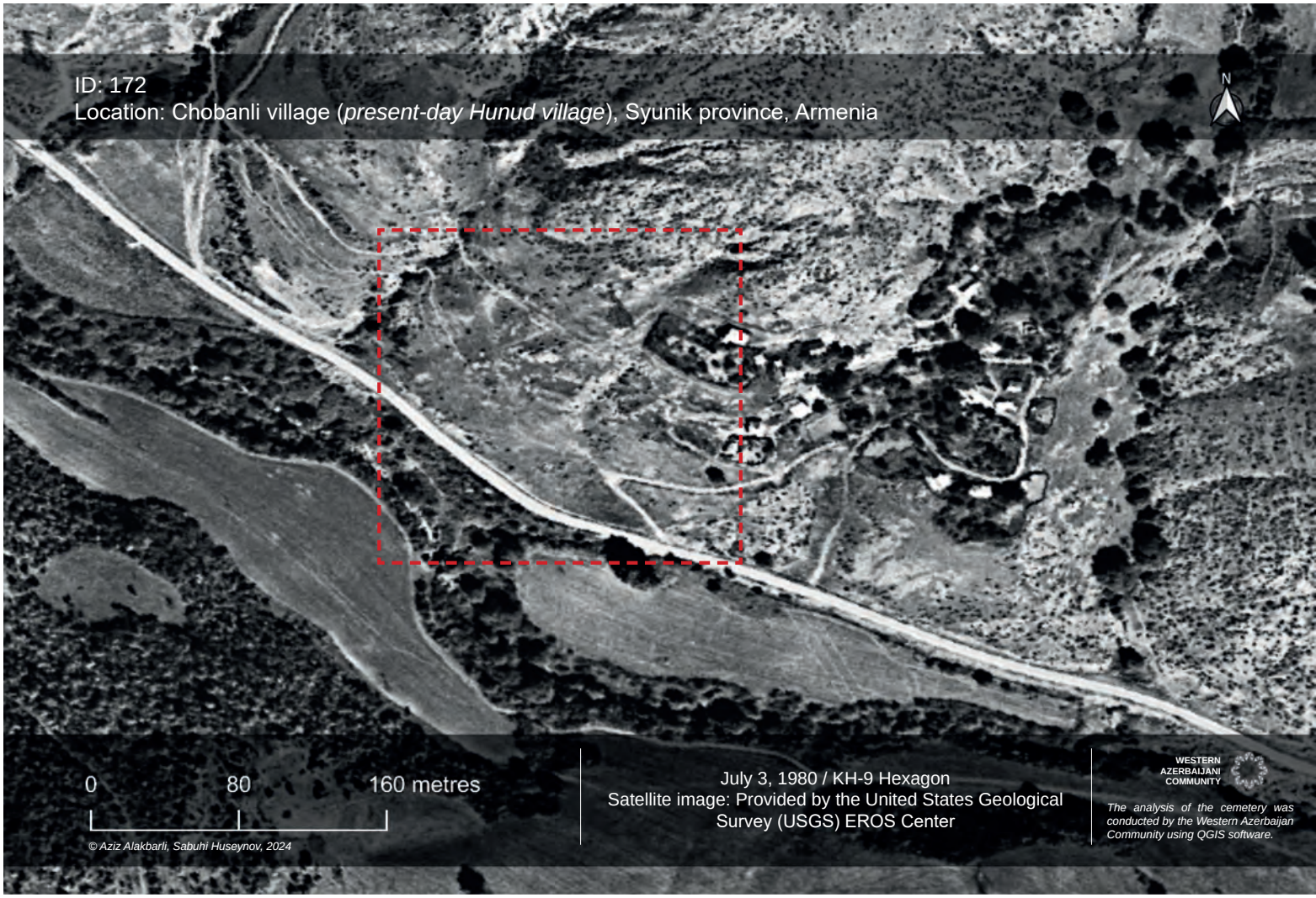
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 311.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2,* June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-33-B (Kafan)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 172
Location: Chobanli village (*present-day Hunud village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

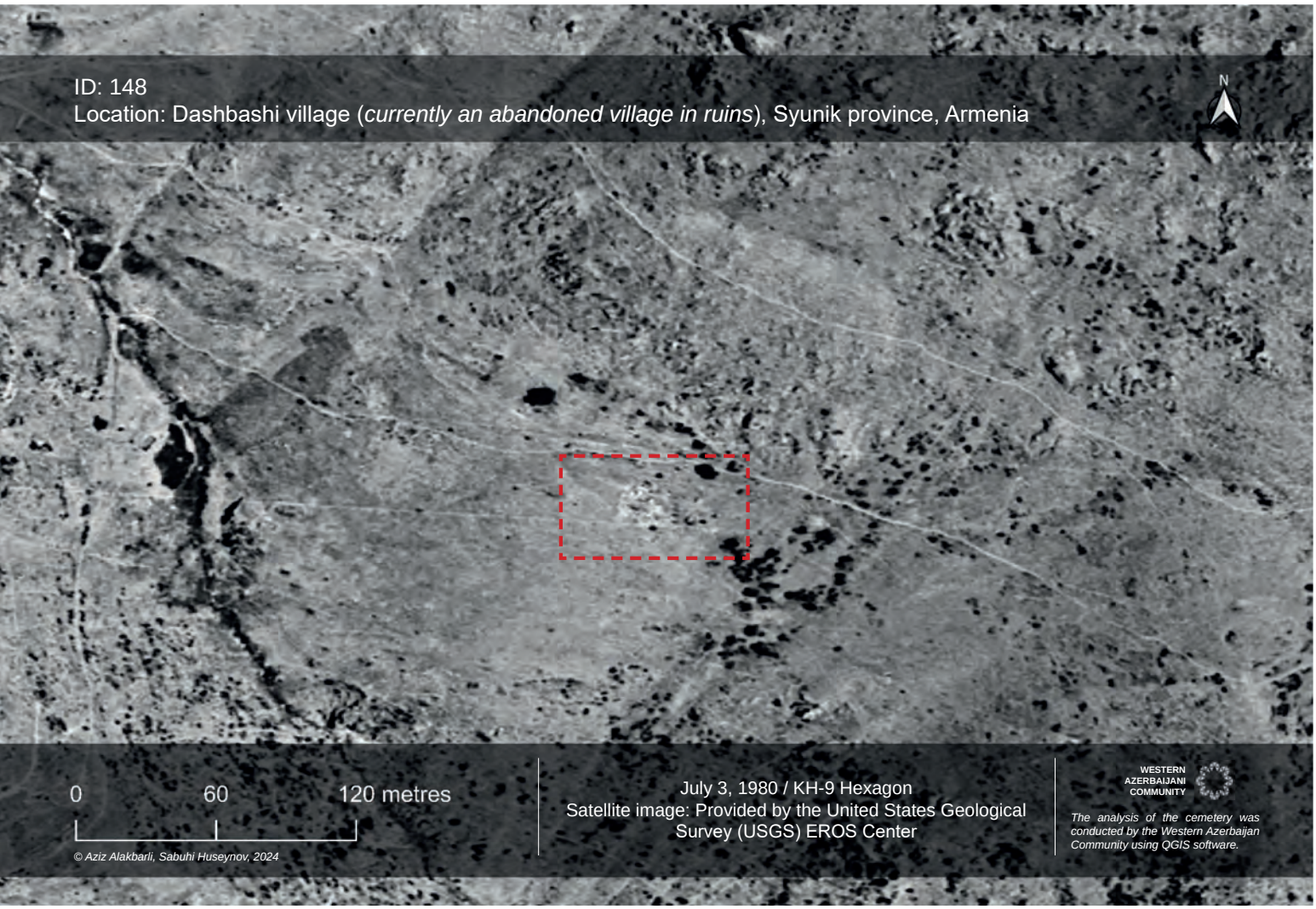
ID: 172
Location: Chobanli village (*present-day Hunud village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: DESTROYED

Dashbashi Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Dashbashi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 148 [MC-492], 39.238422, 46.179227


ID: 148
Location: Dashbashi village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Dashbashi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historically, the village functioned as a winter pasture site. In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Dashbashi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[1] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis revealed tombstones on the cemetery site.

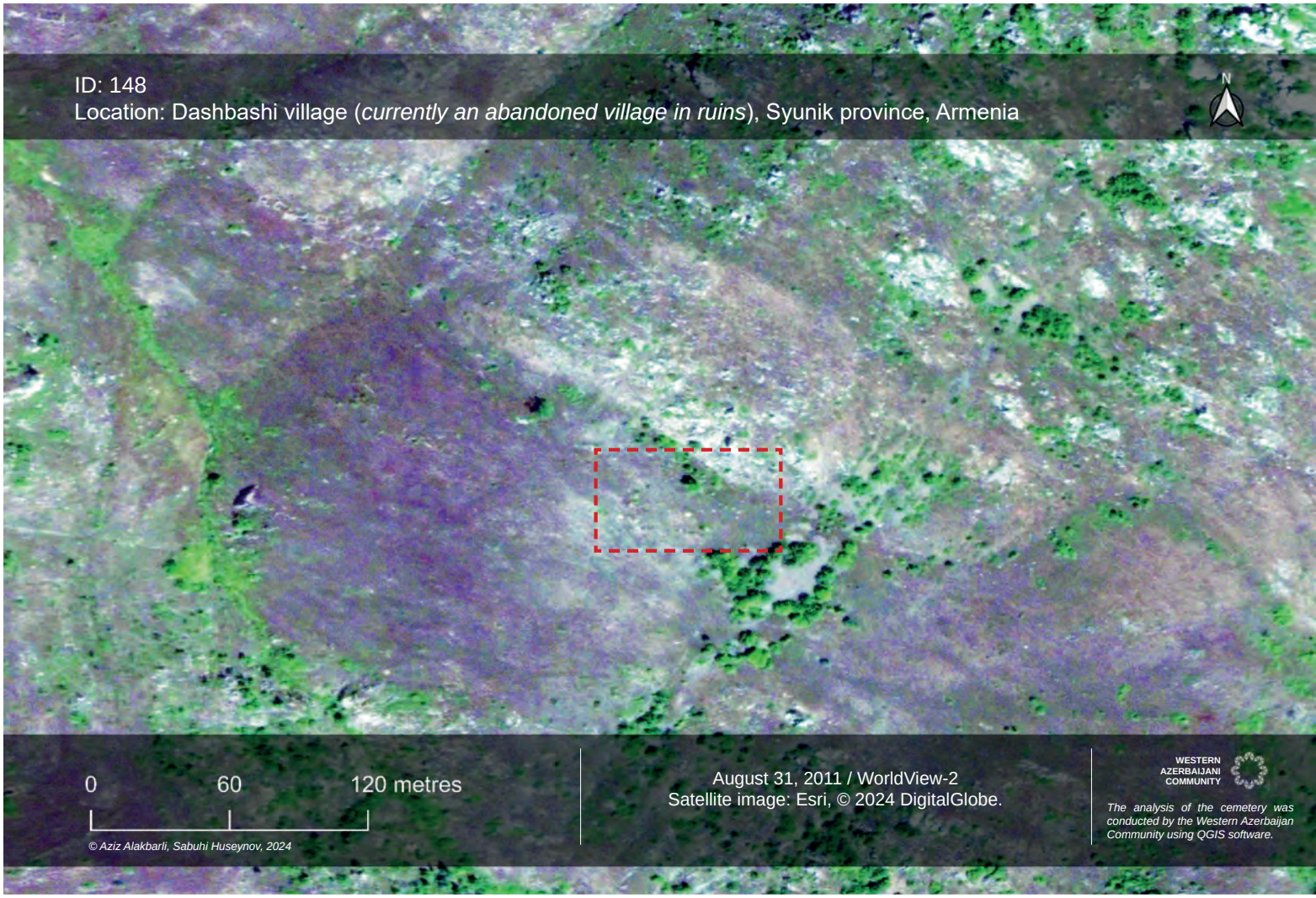
The WorldView-2 satellite imagery dated August 31, 2011[2] showed that the cemetery had fallen into a state of ruin. The satellite imagery revealed that this village lacked even a motor road, and the residential houses had been looted and reduced to ruins. Between 1989 and 2011, the cemetery was subjected to continuous looting and was ultimately reduced to ruins.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the south-southeast of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[3] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[4]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

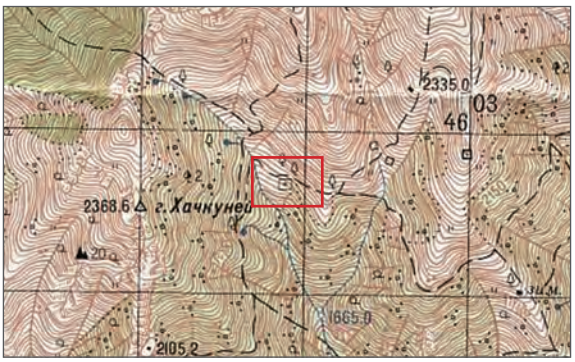
1. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
2. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
3. General'nyĭ Shtab. J-38-33-A *(Gekhi)* [map], 1:50,000. 1974.
4. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 148
Location: Dashbashi village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Dovrus Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Dovrus village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Tavrus village (Armenian)
ID: 101 [MC-028], 39.296894, 46.355163

Dovrus was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located near the village of Okhtar, within a forested area. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 297 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Dovrus village, which had previously been part of the Norashen village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the autumn of 1918, Dovrus village was subjected to an Armenian assault, during which 10 men, 13 women, and 2 children from the village's 67 families were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 88 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In 1948, 9 individuals from 2 families in the village population were deported to Dashkasan district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Dovrus village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Dovrus village was renamed Tavrus.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.35 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. This indicated that the cemetery had been very well preserved by Azerbaijanis.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[11] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2004. The excavation marks left by bulldozers within the cemetery area, along with the destruction caused during this process, clearly show that the cemetery was deliberately and completely destroyed in an act of vandalism. The surrounding fences had disappeared, and all the tombstones visible in the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery were either destroyed or looted and removed. The satellite imagery identified soil disturbances caused by heavy machinery in the surrounding area. The expansion of the road in the northern part of the cemetery suggests that earthmoving operations carried out by bulldozers were extensive.

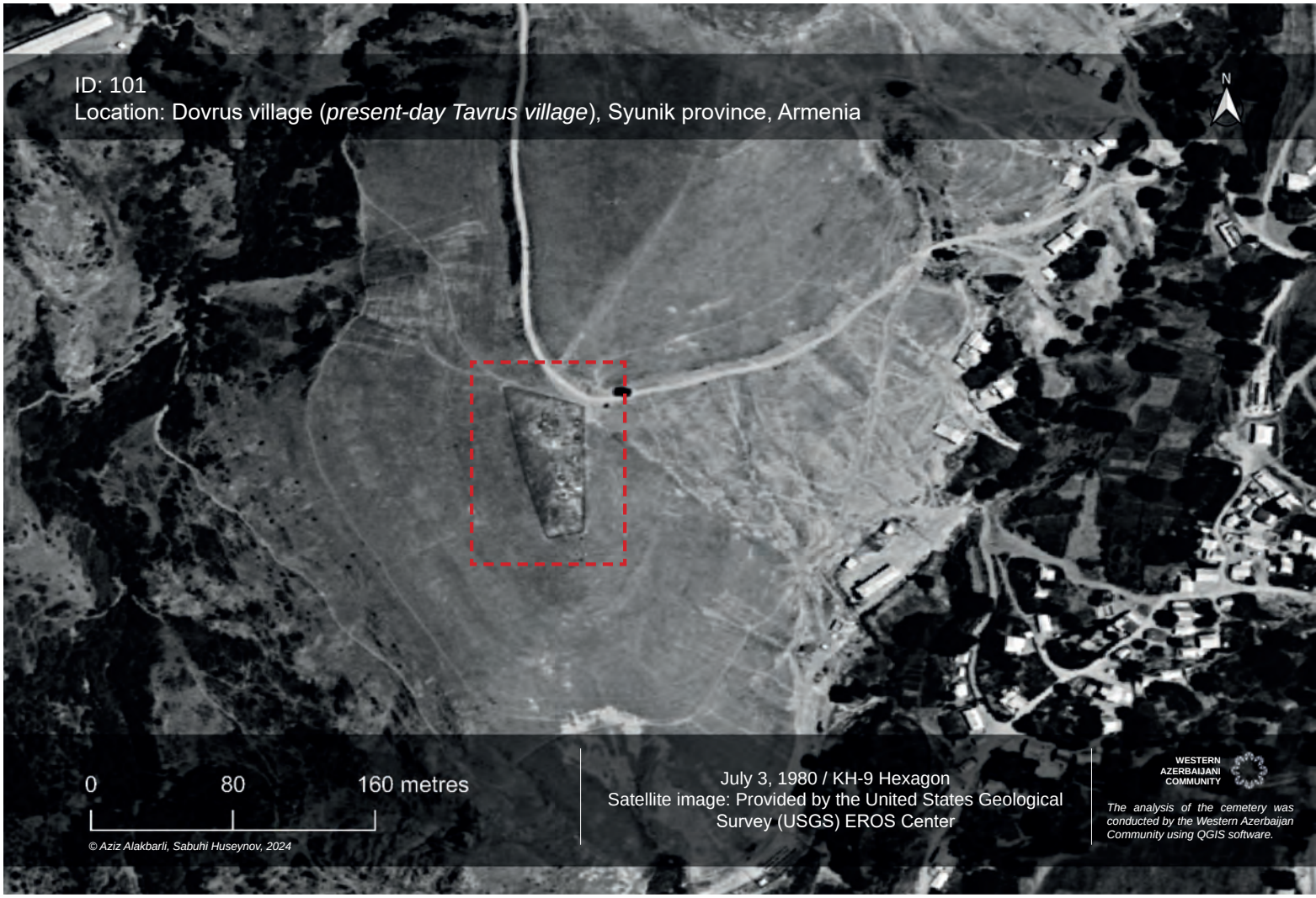
Thus, the intense development of vegetation provides grounds to assume that the destruction took place between 1989 and 1995. It was clearly determined that the vegetation had already undergone a process of regeneration and had begun to reestablish itself.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the south-southwest of the village, at the foot of a hill. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[12] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Musa Urud, *Zängäzur* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2005), 270.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 121.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *"O vooruzhennom napadenii i razgrome musul'manskogo seleniia Dovruz Zangezurskogo uezda",* ARDA, f. 1061, op. 1, d. 75, ll. 5–6.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
7. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär*), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 244.
8. Ibrahim Bayramov and Nazim Mustafa, *Häqiqätin onomastikasï: Indiki Ermänistan Respublikasï ärazisindä tarikhi-joghrafi adlarïn däyishdirilmäsi vä sakhtalashdïrïlmasï* (Baku: Shärq-Qärb, 2021), 106.
9. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 32.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33-B (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
13. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 101
Location: Dovrus village (*present-day Tavrus village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 101
Location: Dovrus village (*present-day Tavrus village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

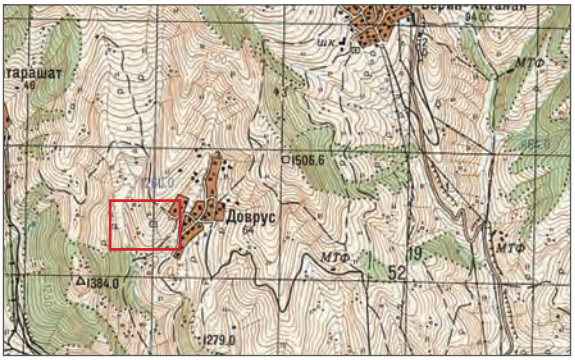
ID: 101
Location: Dovrus village (*present-day Tavrus village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 16, 2016
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 101
Location: Dovrus village (*present-day Tavrus village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 12, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

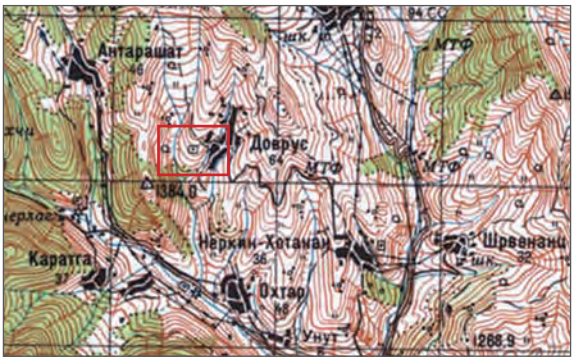
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Garachiman Village Old Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Garachiman village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Ditsmayri village (Armenian)
ID: 075 [MC-189], 39.187401, 46.500643

Garachiman was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Okhchuchay river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 216 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Garachiman village, which had previously been part of the Arsevan village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Garachiman village came under Armenian attack, during which 10 men, 12 women, and 18 children were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 257 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garachiman village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garachiman village was renamed Ditsmayri.[8]

The old cemetery of the village was used not only by the residents of Garachiman, but also by the residents of Godakli (now a ruined village within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, A.A., S.H.) and the Irzagulu villages to bury their deceased. The residents of Garachiman buried their deceased in this cemetery until 1963. After 1963, a new cemetery was established in Garachiman. The Garachiman cemetery was one of the oldest cemeteries in the region.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of over 1.6 hectares, with its tombstones identifiable primarily through a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern. The construction of a new road after the 1950s caused major damage to the cemetery and cut directly through its center.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Based on the results of the analysis, it was determined that the cemetery was completely destroyed between 1989 and 2004, the area was cleared, and a new road was built over it.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated to the south of Garachiman village, a few meters from the nearby farms, on the right side of the road connecting Gafan to Zangilan. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1923 (1:210,000 scale)[11], 1926 (1:210,000)[12], 1930 (1:210,000)[13], 1931 (1:210,000)[14], 1935 (1:210,000)[15], 1937 (1:210,000)[16], 1956 (1:25,000)[17], 1974 (1:50,000)[18] and 1978 (1:100,000)[19]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 136.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. "O vooruzhennom napadenii i razgrome musul'manskogo seleniya Karachiman Zangezurskogo uyezda," ARDA, f. 1061, op. 1, d. 9, ll. 5–6.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
7. Alakberli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï*, 328.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
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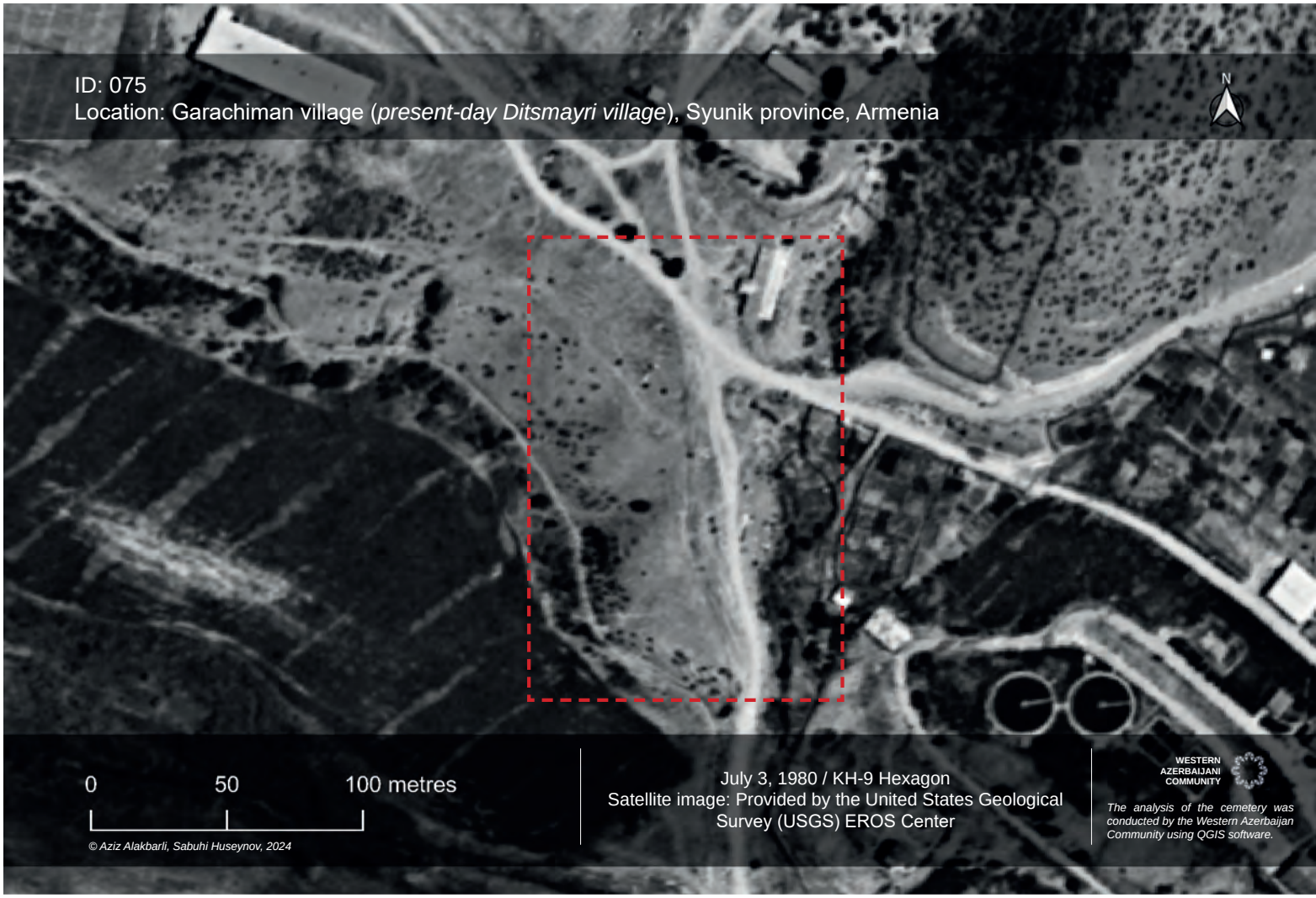
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Map.
11. Upravlenie Voennykh Topografov, Riad 10, List Zh (*Zh.10*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1923.
12. Upravlenie Voennykh Topografov, Riad 10, List Zh (*Zh.10*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 10, List Zh (*Zh.10*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1930.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 10, List Zh (*Zh.10*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1931.
15. Upravlenie Voennykh Topografov RKKA, Zh (*Zh.10*) (*Ordubad*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1935.
16. Upravlenie Voennykh Topografov RKKA, Zh (*Zh.10*) (*Ordubad*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1937.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-34-A-v *(Egvard)* [map], scale 1:25,000, 1956.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-34-A *(Khanlyk)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
19. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-34 *(Zangelan)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1978.


ID: 075
Location: Garachiman village (*present-day Ditsmayri village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 075
Location: Garachiman village (*present-day Ditsmayri village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1923

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1923 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1930

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1930 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1935

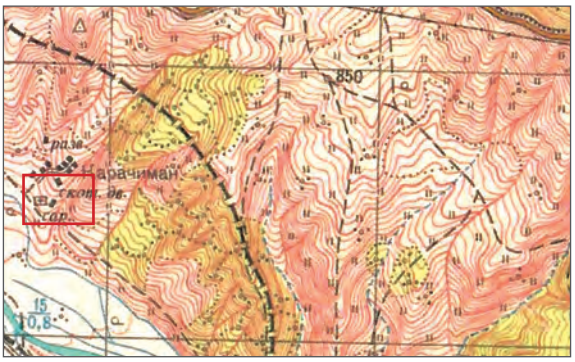
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1935 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1937

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1937 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1956

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1956 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1978

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Garachiman Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Garachiman village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Ditsmayri village (Armenian)
ID: 147 [MC-554], 39.204955, 46.499324

Garachiman was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Okhchuchay river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 216 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Garachiman village, which had previously been part of the Arsevan village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Garachiman village came under Armenian attack, during which 10 men, 12 women, and 18 children were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 257 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garachiman village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garachiman village was renamed Ditsmayri.[7]

The village's new cemetery was established after 1963.[8] Until that date, the cemetery used by the village population had been the old cemetery of Garachiman village, located to the southwest of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] and October 10, 1983[10] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.44 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. As the cemetery bordered cultivated fields plowed by mechanical means to the east, it was fenced off between 1980 and 1983. A comparative analysis of the Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and October 10, 1983,[10] revealed that the cemetery area had expanded to approximately 0.64 hectares and had been enclosed with a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 and June 9, 2004,[11] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results determined that between 1989 and 2004, the entire area was destroyed, and the northern part of the cemetery was used for agricultural purposes. Remains of tombstones were identified in several parts of the area. Thus, it was determined that the village cemetery had been subjected to destruction and was partially obliterated between 1989 and 2004. The extent of the destruction increased by 2009, and the satellite imagery dated 2009[12] (GeoEye-1) confirmed that the area had been plowed using mechanical means.

A comparative analysis of the 2009 satellite imagery with that of 2024,[13] along with photographic documentation taken in 2024, made it possible to identify the locations of several tombstones with remaining ruins and confirmed that 61–90% of the area had been obliterated (Images Nos. 1–3).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the east of the village, on elevated ground. This site was likely not marked on maps published after 1963, possibly due to its small size. The authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon imagery from 1980 and 1983 and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
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7. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
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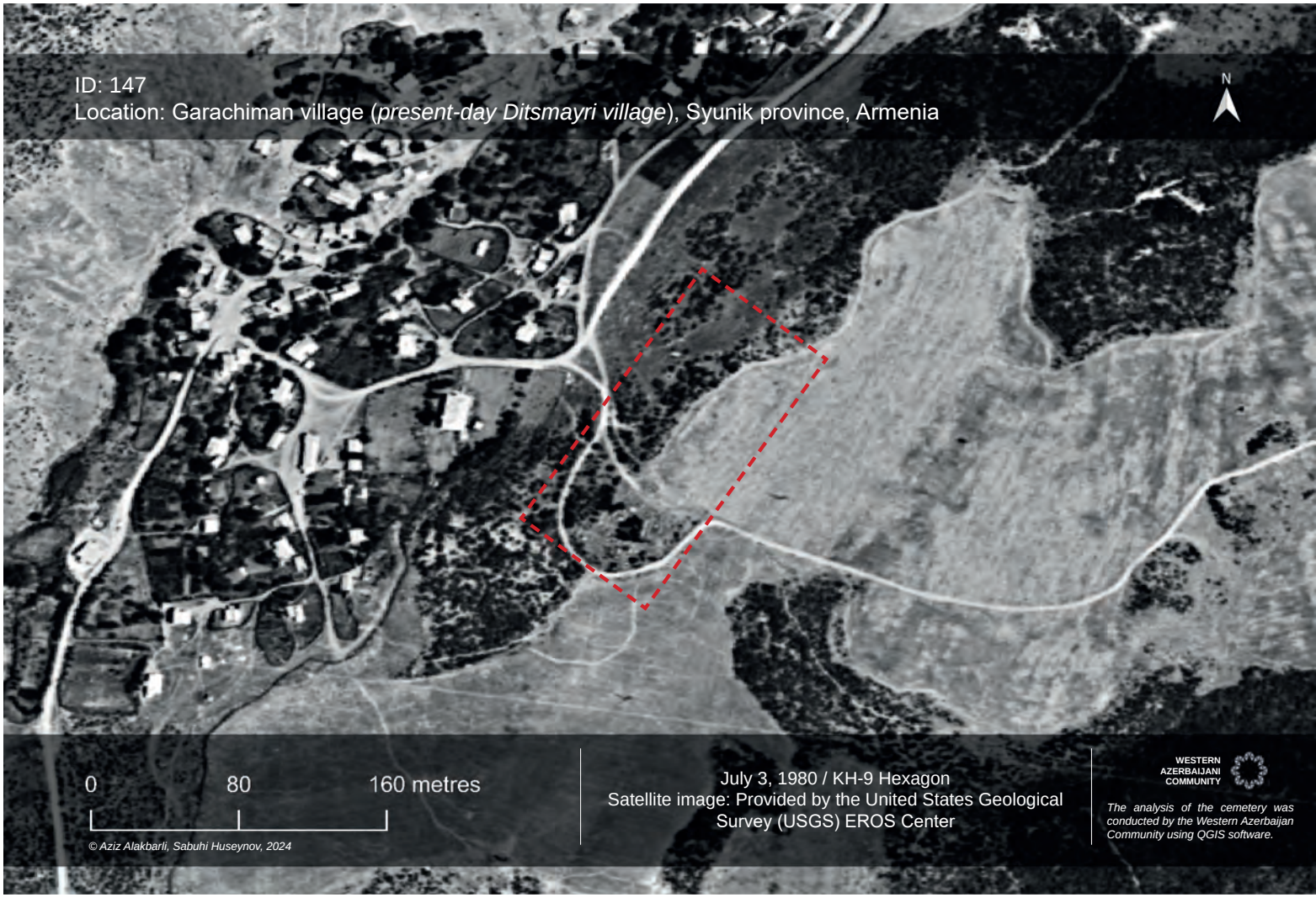
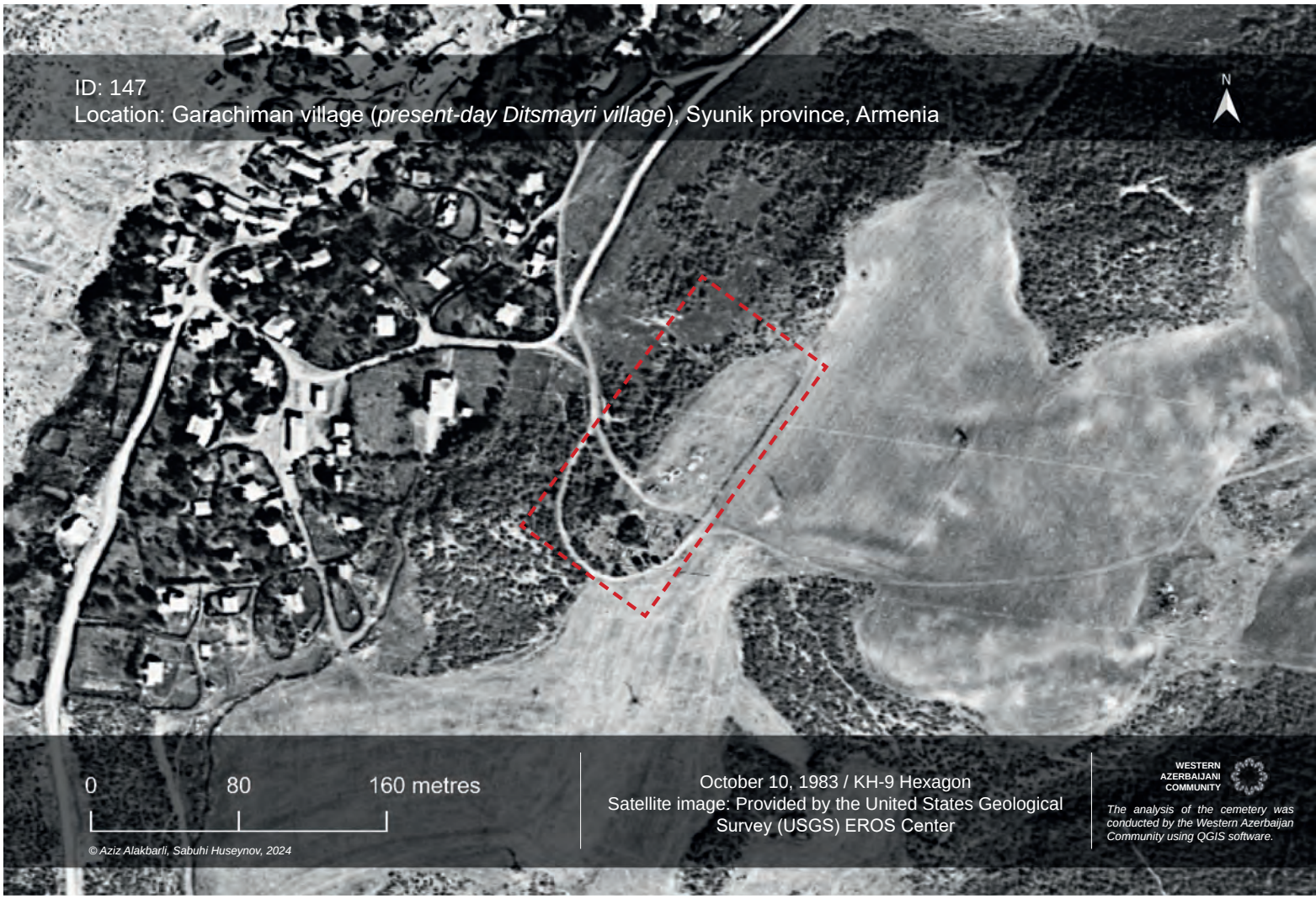
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. June 20, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.


ID: 147
Location: Garachiman village (*present-day Ditsmayri village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 147
Location: Garachiman village (*present-day Ditsmayri village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 147
Location: Garachiman village (*present-day Ditsmayri village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 147
Location: Garachiman village (*present-day Ditsmayri village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 24, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 147
Location: Garachiman village (present-day Ditsmayri village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 20, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 1994

Status: OBLITERATED

Garadigha Village New Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Garadigha village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vanek village (Armenian)
ID: 201 [MC-458], 39.283519, 46.340406

Garadigha was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the right bank of the Khalaj (*Ejanan, A.A., S.H.*) river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim settlement as early as the 1590s under the name Garadigha.[1] According to the same source, the village was alternatively known as Purunlar. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 138 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Garadigha village, which had previously been part of the Norashen village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Garadigha village came under Armenian attack, during which 52 people, including men, women, and children were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, from 1924 to 1926, 95 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In 1948, 28 individuals from 5 families were deported to Dashkasan district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garadigha village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] Garadigha village was subsequently renamed Vanek.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site, revealing the presence of tombstones in the northern part of the village. During that period, the cemetery covered an area of 0.65 hectares and was surrounded by fences.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the results of the analysis, the entire cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2004. The area was cleared, and the tombstones were likely looted.

The analysis of the intensive vegetation growth in the cemetery area suggests that the obliteration thereof likely took place at least 10 years before. This corresponds to the period between 1989 and 1994. The satellite imagery dated 2021 showed that no traces remained of the cemetery, which had been obliterated long ago.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located to the north of the village, in a highland area. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps. The authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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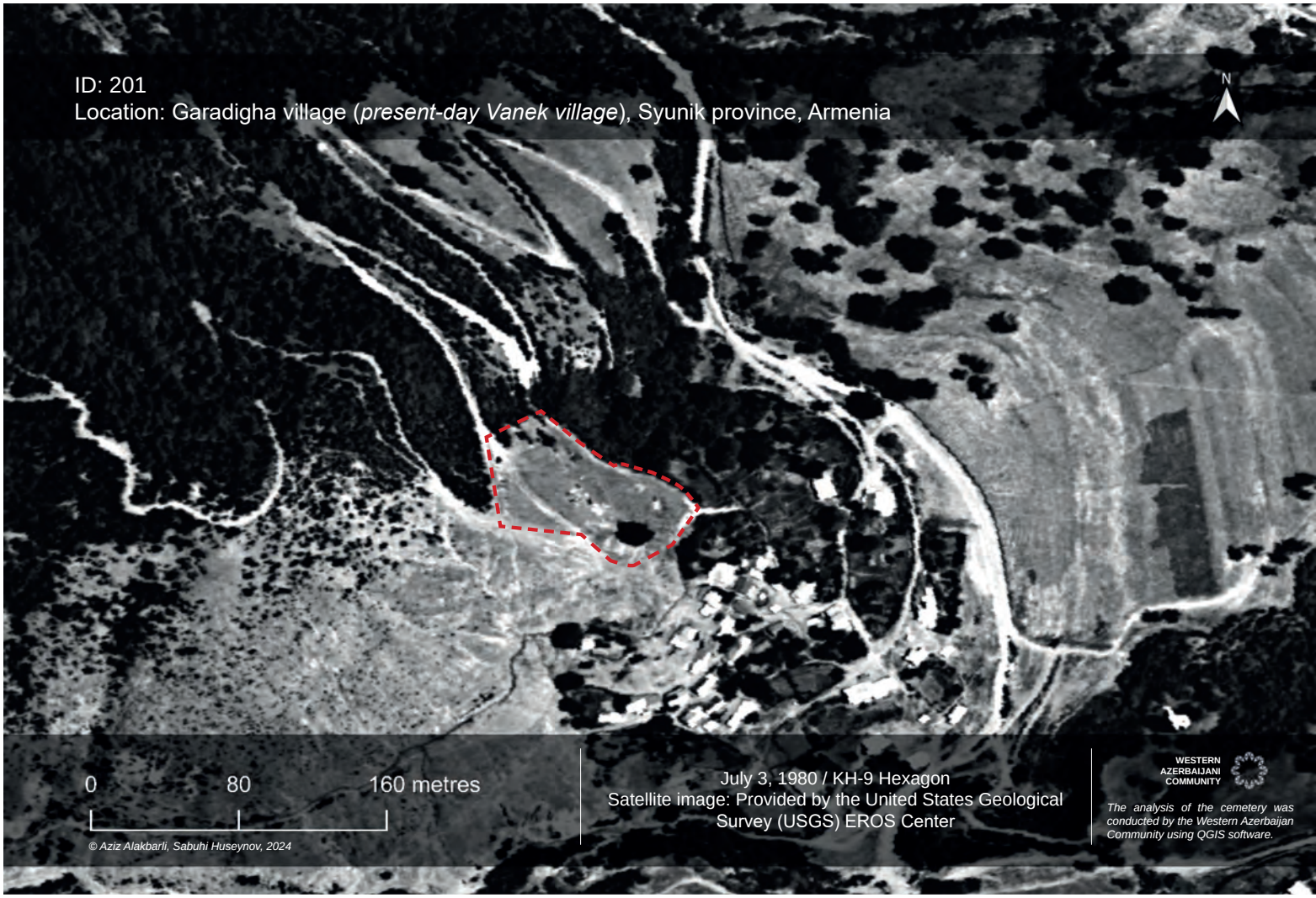
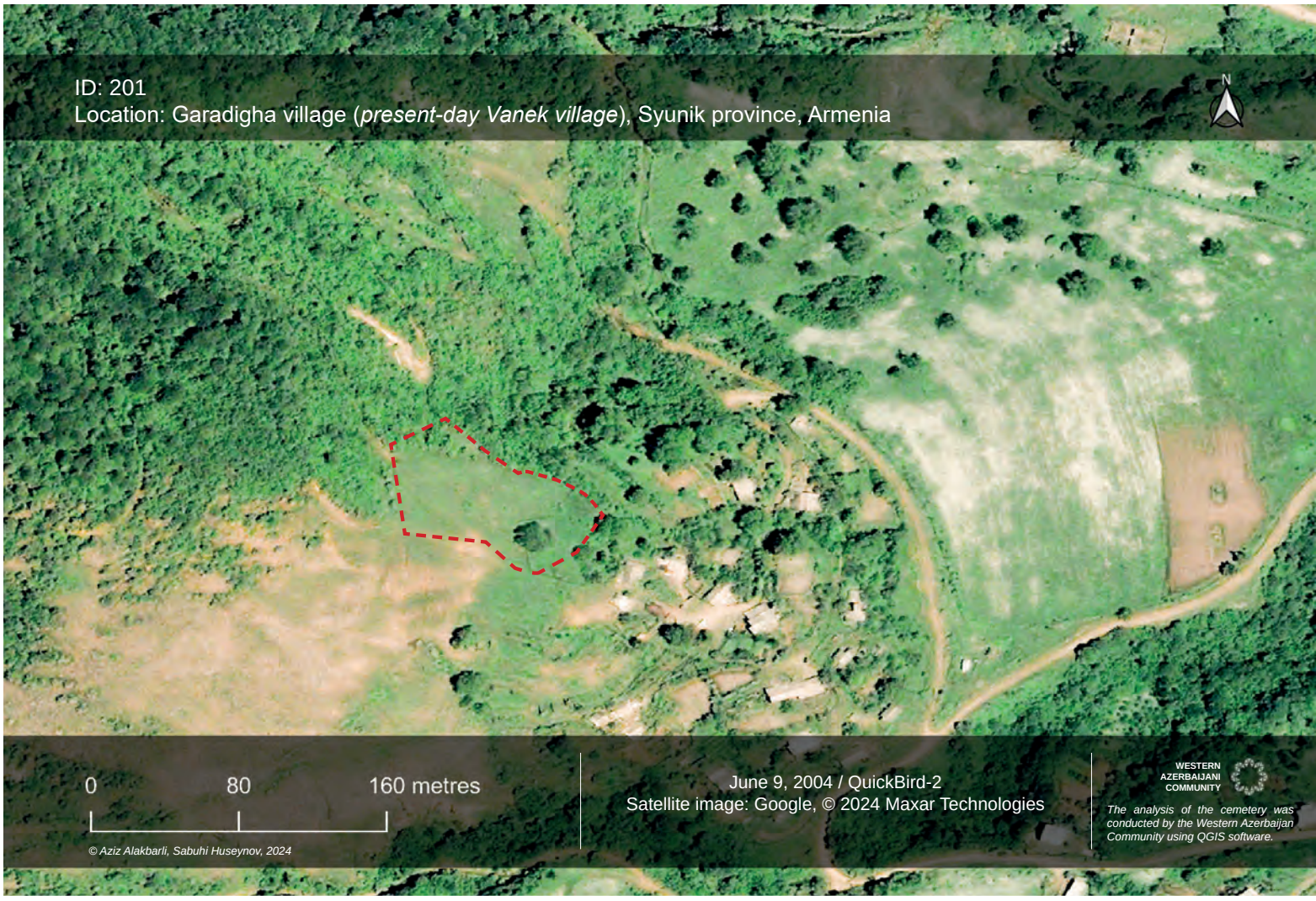
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. QuickBird-2, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.


ID: 201
Location: Garadigha village (*present-day Vanek village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 201
Location: Garadigha village (*present-day Vanek village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Gard Village New Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Gard (Ashaghi Gard) village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Kard village (Armenian)
ID: 091 [MC-102], 39.2152992, 46.1030972

Gard was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the bank of the Gard river, a left tributary of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). The village formerly consisted of two parts: *Ashaghi Gard* and *Yukhari Gard*.

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gard village, previously part of the Okhchu village commune within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[2] In 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[3] In 1919, although the villagers attempted to return, renewed Armenian attacks compelled them to abandon the area again. During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 71 Azerbaijanis returned to Ashaghi Gard village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[4] Yukhari Gard village, however, was permanently reduced to ruins. Following the earthquake that occurred in Zangezur in 1968, the population of the village was relocated to Zeyva village.[5] However, after some time, the residents began to resettle in the village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gard village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gard village was renamed Kard.[7]

The new cemetery of Gard village (*prior to 1988, A.A., S.H.*) was located on the left bank of the Gard river, on both the right and left sides of the Girinti valley. Initially, the cemetery had been established only on the right side of the valley. Once that area became full, Ahmadali Imamguliyev donated his own lands on the left side of the valley for cemetery use, and from that time onward, the cemetery extended along the left bank of the Gard river as well.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.27 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2011.

As a result of the obliteration of the Gard village cemetery, the historical traces of Azerbaijani family lineages were erased, along with a historical site that embodied the craftsmanship, religious beliefs, and social structure of a significant period.

GEOLOCATION:

Gard cemetery was located to the south of the village, on the left bank of the Gard river, alongside the road. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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6. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 131
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10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-A *(Gekhi)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.

ID: 091
Location: Gard village (*present-day Kard village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 091
Location: Gard village (*present-day Kard village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Gighi Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Gighi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Geghi village (Armenian)
ID: 090 [MC-027], 39.2250144, 46.1608901

Gighi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Gighi river, on the right bed of the Ganli Dere river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 16th century.[1] At the time, the village was also the center of a nahiyah sharing its name. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 190 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gighi village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[2] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In 1918, Gighi village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 335 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5]

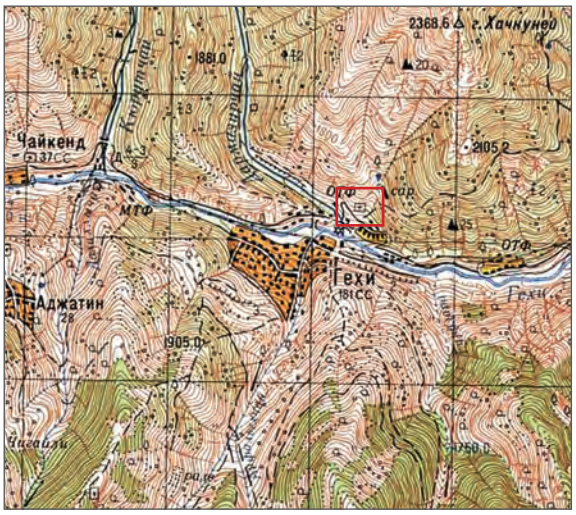
In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gighi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery was located on elevated terrain, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous surface pattern. This indicates the presence of a large number of old graves in the cemetery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[8] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the findings, the cemetery was completely destroyed between 1989 and 2011 through the use of bulldozers and other heavy machinery, and new infrastructure was constructed on the site. Earthmoving operations displaced tombstones and were accompanied by the development of new infrastructure. These processes caused significant damage to the structure and historical value of the cemetery.

As a result of the destruction of the Gighi village cemetery, the historical traces of Azerbaijani family lineages were erased. Cemeteries are not merely burial sites, but also places that reflect the craftsmanship, religious beliefs, and social status of a significant historical period. Monuments, epitaphs, and symbols provide



insight into a people's history. The destruction of such cemeteries by bulldozers amounts to the erasure of both the physical and spiritual traces of that culture.

GEOLOCATION:

Gighi cemetery is located to the northeast of the village, approximately 200 meters northeast of the river. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[9] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[10]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. Kamran Ismailov, *Zangezurda Azerbayjan xalqina qarshi soyqirimi (1918–1920)* (Baku: Elm, 2017), 20-21.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
6. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 299.
7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
9. General'nyï Shtab. J-38-33-A *(Gekhi)* [map], 1:50,000. 1974.
10. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 090
Location: Gighi village (*present-day Geghi village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

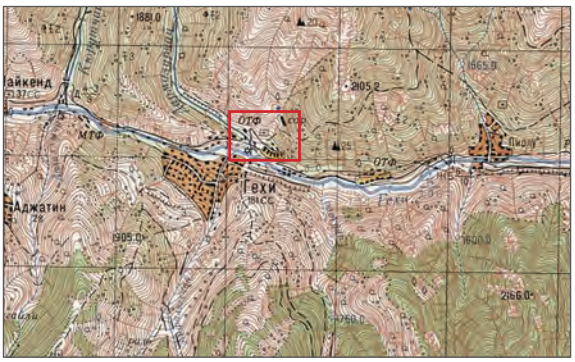
ID: 090
Location: Gighi village (*present-day Geghi village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 090
Location: Gighi village (*present-day Geghi village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
August 26, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Gomaran Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Gomaran village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Gomaran village (Armenian)
ID: 187 [MC-192], 39.183163, 46.414446

Gomaran was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the right bank of the Okhchu river, near the village of Gudgum. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 158 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gomaran village, which had previously been part of the Darzili village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the autumn of 1918, Gomaran village came under Armenian attack, during which 10 people from its 40 families were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1926, 52 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 220 Azerbaijani residents of Gomaran village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery and the tombstones were identified on the right side of the Gafan-Gudgum road, between garden plots. Tombstones were detected only in areas without trees. The cemetery was enclosed by a fence. Therefore, it was not possible to determine the size of the area.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2004. It was determined that the cemetery had been divided into residential garden plots and put to use. It also became clear that a new Armenian cemetery had been established to the east of the area, on the eastern side of the road. The satellite imagery dated 2009[10] (GeoEye-1) once again confirms that, except for a few tombstones located about 90 meters west of the road, all tombstones in the area had long been cleared and that the site had been converted into a garden. A comparative analysis of the obtained imagery with the 2023 WorldView-2 satellite imagery[11] proves that the entire cemetery has been obliterated.

Based on satellite imagery and photographic documentation (Images Nos. 1–2), the analysis established that the cemetery area had been destroyed, repurposed for various uses, converted into garden plots, and that a new Armenian cemetery had been constructed nearby. The comparison of satellite imagery from 1989 and 2004 clearly reveals signs of the cemetery's gradual destruction. In addition, the 2023 imagery shows that all tombstones have completely disappeared, and even the structural traces of the cemetery have been erased.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the northeast of the village, on the left side of the Gafan road, at an elevation of 967 meters above sea level. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1953 (1:25,000 scale)[12] and 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 198.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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6. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 134-135.
7. Musa Urud, *Zangazur toponimleri* (Baku: Nurlar, 2013), 134.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. November 07, 2023, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab Sovetskoy Armii, J-38-33-B-g (Kafan) [map], scale 1:25,000, 1953.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-B (*Kafan*) [map], 1:50,000, 1974.

ID:187
Location: Gomaran village (*present-day Gomaran village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID:187
Location: Gomaran village (*present-day Gomaran village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

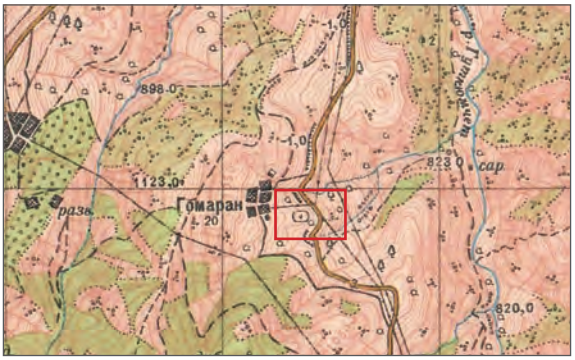
ID:187
Location: Gomaran village (*present-day Gomaran village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 24, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID:187
Location: Gomaran village (*present-day Gomaran village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 7, 2023 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1953

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1953 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1987 to 1989

Status: OBLITERATED

Govshud Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Govshud village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Kavchut village (Armenian)
ID: 099 [MC-105], 39.217360, 46.232061

Govshud was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located in the Gighi valley, on the right bank of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim settlement as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also known by other names, including Govshug and Govshutlu. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 320 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Govshud village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1918, Govshud village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 108 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On December 4, 1988, 357 Azerbaijani residents of Govshud village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Govshud village was renamed Kavchut.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings reveal that the cemetery was established along the roadside, on a mountain slope. The area had no fences. Therefore, the estimated area is approximately 1 hectare. Tombstones were identified within the area.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 4, 2016[10] (WorldView-3) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1980 and 2016. New road construction and infrastructure projects were found to have been implemented in the area. According to the analysis, part of the cemetery was used for the construction of a water reservoir. This led to deep excavations in the area and the erasure of the original traces of the cemetery.

To refine the timeframe and determine the approximate date of this obliteration, the authors converted spectral imagery from the 3rd and 4th bands of the Landsat 5 satellite into NDVI values, allowing them to track vegetation changes in the area between 1984 and 2016. A sharp decline in NDVI values between 1987 and 1989, in some areas reaching levels indicative of a complete absence of vegetation, suggests that events occurred during this period that disrupted plant growth in the area. This may have resulted from the destruction of the cemetery and the subsequent earthmoving operations carried out on the site.

With the destruction of the cemetery, a part of Azerbaijan's cultural heritage was effectively erased. The destruction of the tombstones that once existed in the cemetery area, along with the overall obliteration of the cemetery and the alteration of the land through excavation, led to the erasure of traces reflecting the history of the Azerbaijanis who once lived there. This once again confirms the deliberate implementation by the Armenian state of a policy aimed at erasing Azerbaijani cultural heritage sites in the region.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 600 meters northwest of the village, 200 meters south of the ruins of Garabash village, on the left bank of the Gighi river. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 56-57.
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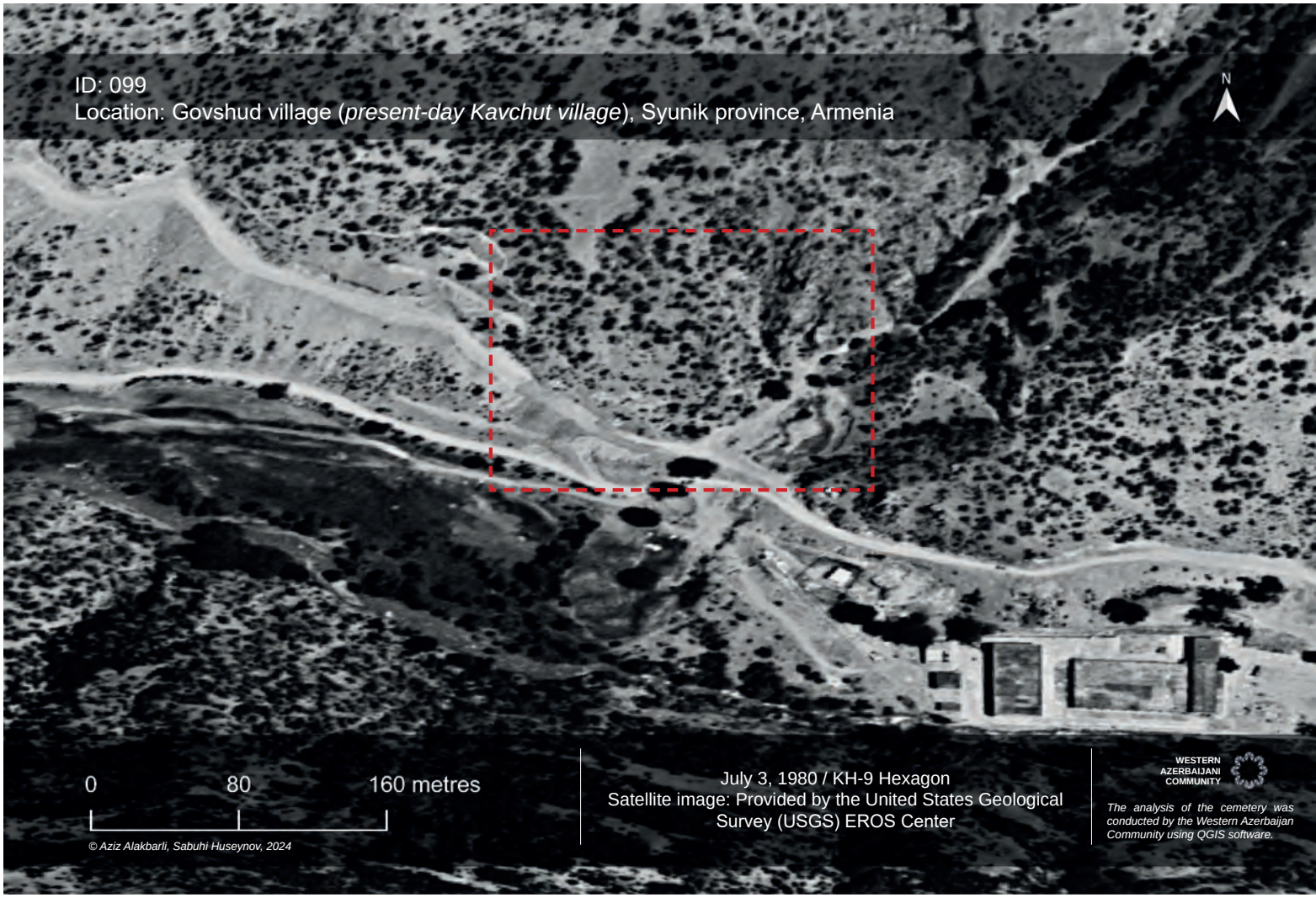
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. Musa Urud, *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 218
6. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 134-135.
7. Urud, *Zängäzur toponimläri*, 218.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-3*, August 04, 2016, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab. J-38-33-A (*Gekhi*), scale [map], 1:50,000. 1974.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*), scale [map], 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 099
Location: Govshud village (*present-day Kavchut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

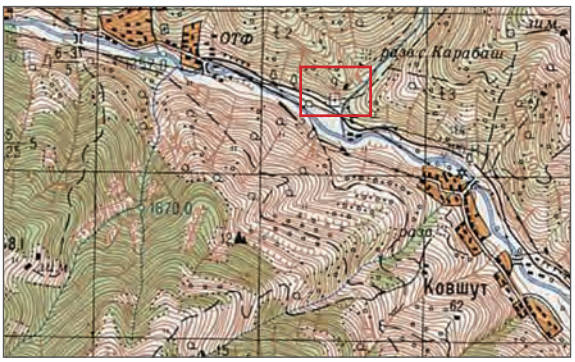
ID: 099
Location: Govshud village (*present-day Kavchut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 4, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 099
Location: Govshud village (*present-day Kavchut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 1, 2018 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

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4

5

From 2009 to 2018

Status: OBLITERATED

Jibilli Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Jibilli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vardavank village (Armenian)
ID: 192 [MC-020], 39.2446912, 46.5114457

Jibilli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located at the foot of the Bargushad mountain range, on the bank of the Ajibaj river, a left tributary of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 19th century.[1] Jibilli village was also known as '*Jibikli*'. Subsequent statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 160 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Jibilli village, which had previously been part of the Teymur Muskanli village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In 1918, Jibilli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 52 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In the late 1930s, the village was dissolved and merged with Yukhari Godakli village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the residents of Jibilli village also took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, together with the Azerbaijani inhabitants of Yukhari Godakli village to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis identified the cemetery with its heterogeneous, patchy surface. Due to the absence of perimeter walls, the exact area of the cemetery could not be calculated.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was completely destroyed at some point between 1989 and 2004. However, it was established that a few tombstones remained. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2004 and October 24, 2009[10] (GeoEye-1) confirms that the area remained stable. Some of the tombstones visible in the 2004 imagery could no longer be identified in the 2009 imagery. This indicates that these tombstones had been destroyed.

Thus, the analyses conducted show that the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village in 1988 led to a shift in settlement, which had a direct impact on the condition of the cemetery. Abandoned and left without protection, the village cemetery was subjected to vandalism, and the tombstones within it disappeared. The analysis provides sufficient grounds to conclude that the condition of the cemetery should be classified as "*Obliterated*", as the losses are extensive and irreversible.

The cemetery represents a significant part of the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani community of Jibilli village, reflecting their presence and historical legacy in the region. Its destruction inflicted a serious blow on the community's collective memory and on the values meant to be passed on to future generations. The destruction of the Jibilli cemetery had cultural, historical, psychological, and sociological consequences, affecting both individuals and the community as a whole. This resulted in profound losses, not only due to the disappearance of elements enriching cultural heritage, but also by undermining the community's sense of identity and belonging.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located east of the village, at an elevation of 1,145 meters above sea level, just beyond the household plots of residential homes. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11] and 1978 (1:100,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 136-137.
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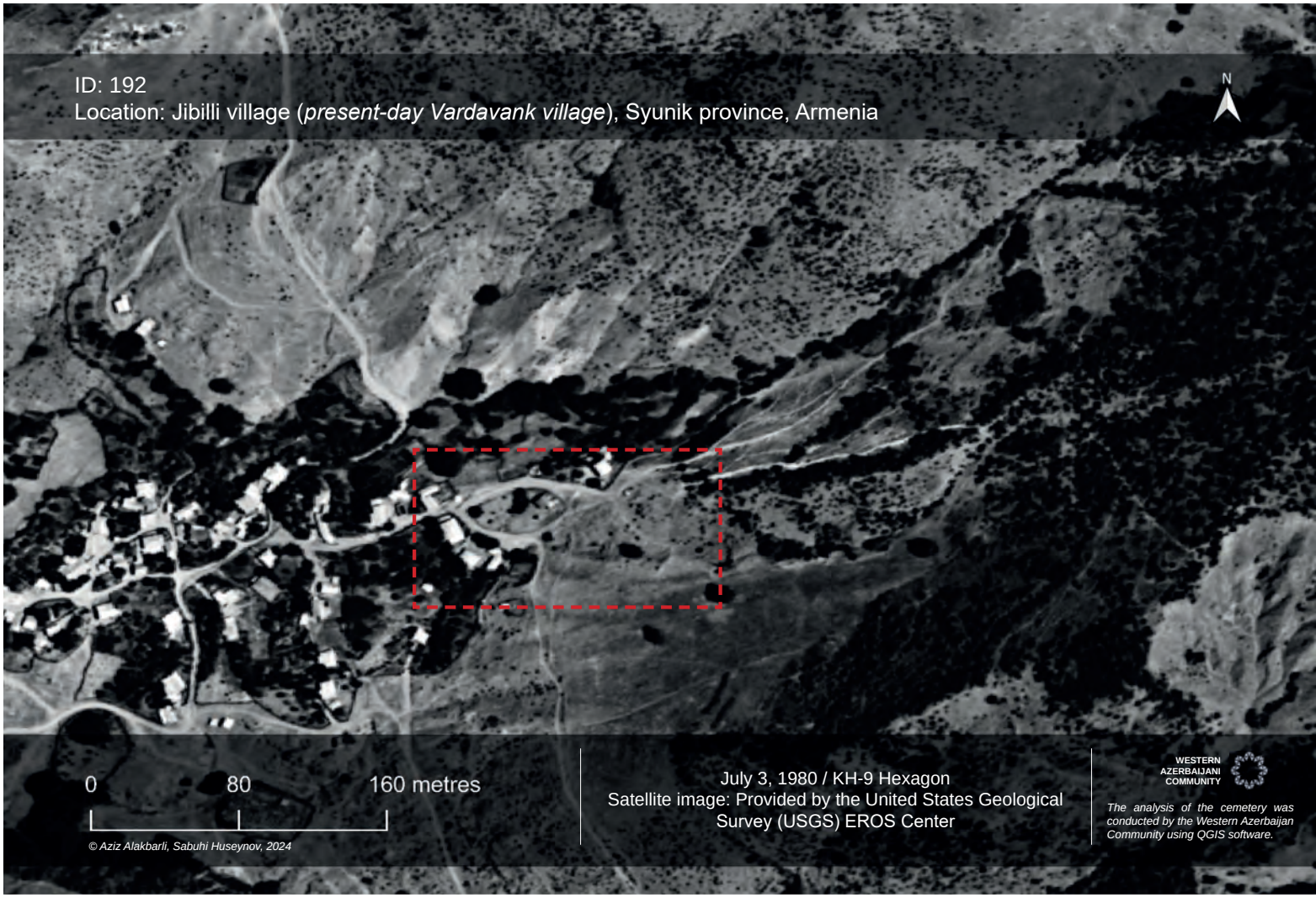
8. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, Juny 09, 2004, Maxar via Esri Map.
10. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-34-A (*Khanlyk*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-34 (*Zangelan*) [map], scale 1:100,000. 1978.


ID: 192
Location: Jibilli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 192
Location: Jibilli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

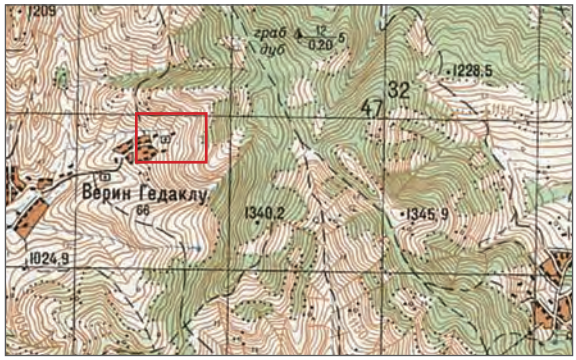
ID: 192
Location: Jibilli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 24, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 192
Location: Jibilli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 20, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

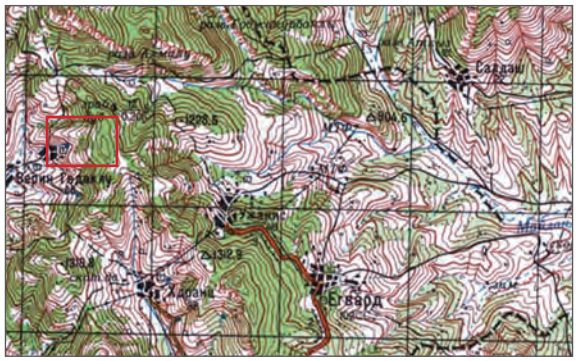
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1978

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Jibilli Village New Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Jibilli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vardavank village (Armenian)
ID: 194 [MC-548], 39.247618, 46.507950

Jibilli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located at the foot of the Bargushad mountain range, on the bank of the Ajibaj river, a left tributary of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 19th century.[1] Jibilli village was also known as '*Jibikli*'. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 160 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Jibilli village, which had previously been part of the Teymur Muskanli village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In 1918, Jibilli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 52 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In the late 1930s, the village was dissolved and merged with Yukhari Godakli village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the residents of Jibilli village also took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan, together with the Azerbaijani inhabitants of Yukhari Godakli village to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

In addition to the cemeteries present in the village (ID:192; ID:193), it was established that another cemetery existed as of 1980. As this cemetery was not marked on maps published between the 1950s and 1970s, the authors assume that it was established sometime between 1980 and 1988.

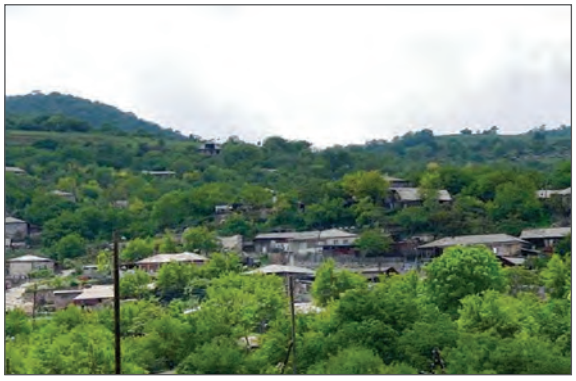
CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery was located on a high hill, covering an area of 0.157 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 29, 2004[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2004. Fragments of tombstones were identified in several locations across the site.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2004 and October 24, 2009[10] (GeoEye-1) confirmed that the cemetery had been completely destroyed by that time.

The cemetery represents a significant part of the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani community of Jibilli village, reflecting their presence and historical legacy in the region. Its destruction inflicted a serious blow on the community's collective memory and on the values meant to be passed on to future generations.



The destruction of the Jibilli cemetery had cultural, historical, psychological, and sociological consequences, affecting both individuals and the community as a whole. This resulted in profound losses, not only due to the disappearance of elements enriching cultural heritage, but also by undermining the community's sense of identity and belonging.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 350 meters north of the village. As the cemetery was established in the 1980s, it was not marked on any of the existing Soviet topographic maps. The authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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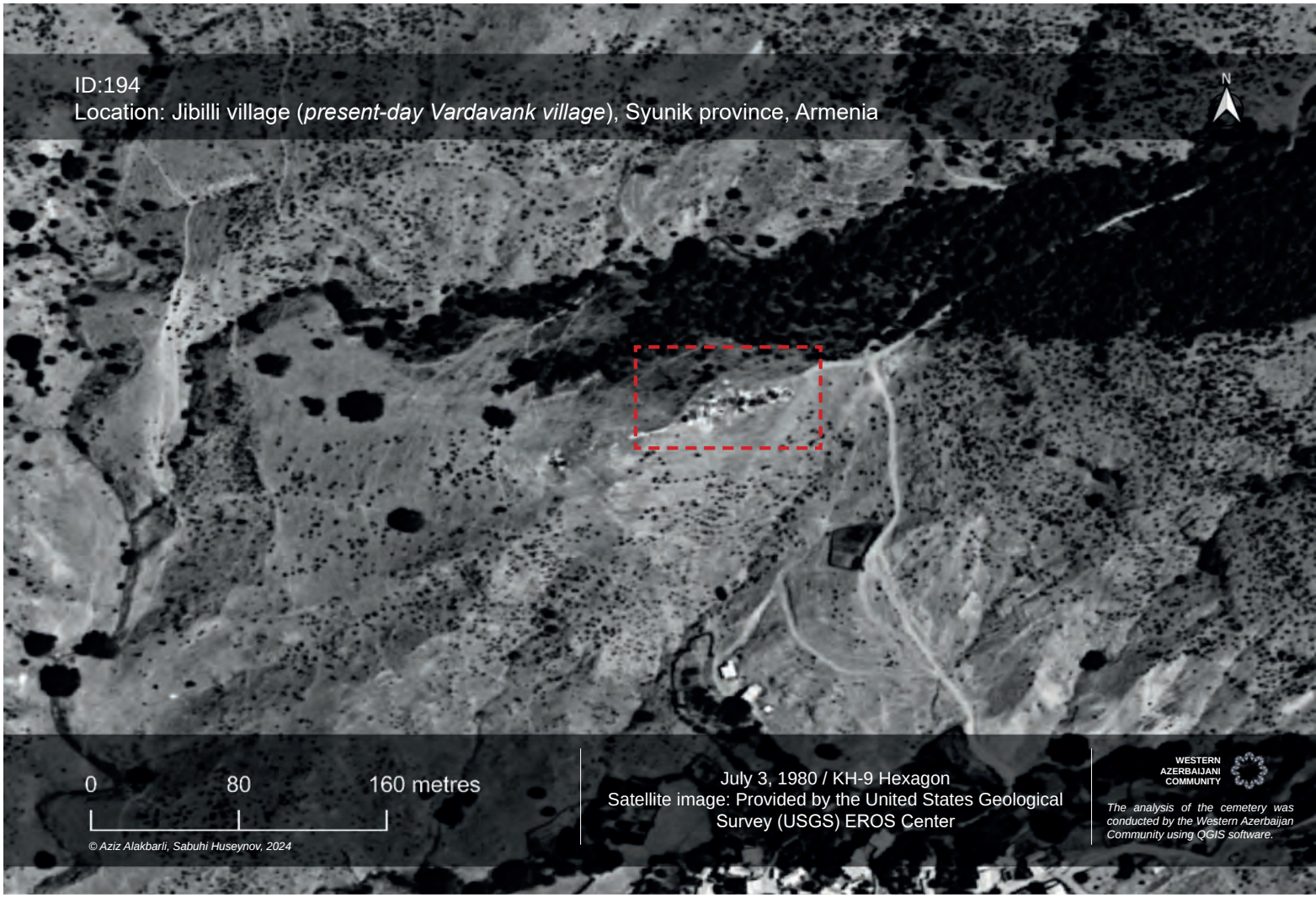
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. Kamran Ismayilov, *Zängäzurda Azärbayjan xalqï-na qarshï soyqïrïmï (1918-1920)* (Baku: Elm, 2017), 20-21.
6. Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakchutyuny,* 136-137.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 323.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *QuickBird-2*, Juny 09, 2004, Maxar via Esri Map.
10. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.


ID:194
Location: Jibilli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID:194
Location: Jibilli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Keypashin Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Keypashin village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, currently in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 103 [MC-500], 39.243494, 46.106958

ID: 103
Location: Keypashin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Keypashin was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located in the upper reaches of the Gighi river, at the foot of the Arimaz and Sarimsagli mountains. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. A cemetery once existed in the lower part of Keypashin village. Until the residents of Payhan village established their own cemetery, they also brought their deceased to be buried here.[1]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[2] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.26 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[3] (Maxar) (at right, top) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. One tombstone was observed in the northern part of the area, and in the southern part, the fragments of approximately 3 to 4 destroyed tombstones were identified. However, the latest satellite imagery dated 2022 shows that the cemetery has been completely obliterated.[4]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the north-northwest of the village, on the right bank of the Gighi river, at an elevation of 830 meters above sea level. This site was not marked on any of the topographic maps examined by the authors in this research. The authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 309.
2. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
3. August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
4. July 20, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.

ID: 103
Location: Keypashin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 103
Location: Keypashin village (*currently an abandoned village in ruins*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Khalaj Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Khalaj village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Achanan village (Armenian)
ID: 102 [MC-109], 39.237216, 46.424885

Khalaj was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Khalaj (*Ejanan, A.A., S.H.*) river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 198 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

Khalaj village first came under Armenian attack in 1906. Despite the severe destruction inflicted upon the village, the residents restored it shortly thereafter.

From May 28, 1918, onward, Khalaj village, which had previously been part of the Arsevan village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On December 21, 1918, Khalaj village came under Armenian attack, during which 80 villagers were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 132 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In 1948, 48 residents of the village were deported to the Dashkasan district of the Azerbaijan SSR.7

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Khalaj village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Khalaj village was renamed Achanan.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] and October 10, 1983[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis identified the cemetery and tombstones on the cemetery site. The cemetery was located to the west of Khalaj village and was bordered on three sides by the road leading from the village to Gafan. A poultry plant was located on the southern side of the road, to the south of the cemetery, while a dairy cattle farm existed on its northern side. In the Hexagon image, tombstones within the cemetery area are mainly visible in the central part.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[12] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Based on the analysis results, it was determined that the tombstones were destroyed following the deportation of Azerbaijanis. The dense growth of vegetation indicates that the destruction occurred in the 1990s and that the site remained neglected for a long time afterward. This destruction was carried out not for agricultural purposes, but rather with the intention of erasing the traces of the cemetery. The long-term disuse of the area and the subsequent regrowth of vegetation support the plausibility of this explanation. This is also confirmed by subsequent satellite imagery.[13,14]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the north-northwest of the village, at the foot of a hill situated 830 meters above sea level, on the left side of the village road that connects to the road leading to Gafan city. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1953 (1:25,000 scale)[15] and 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. *Zängäzur mahalïnïn kameral täsviri 1832–1833-ji illär*, transl., ed., intro., notes, and comments by Nazir Ahmädli (Baku: Elm ve Tehsil, 2021), 252.
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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. "*O razgrome armyanami musul'manskogo seleniya Khalazh Zangezurskogo uyezda*," ARDA, f.1061, op.1, d.37, ll.5–6.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
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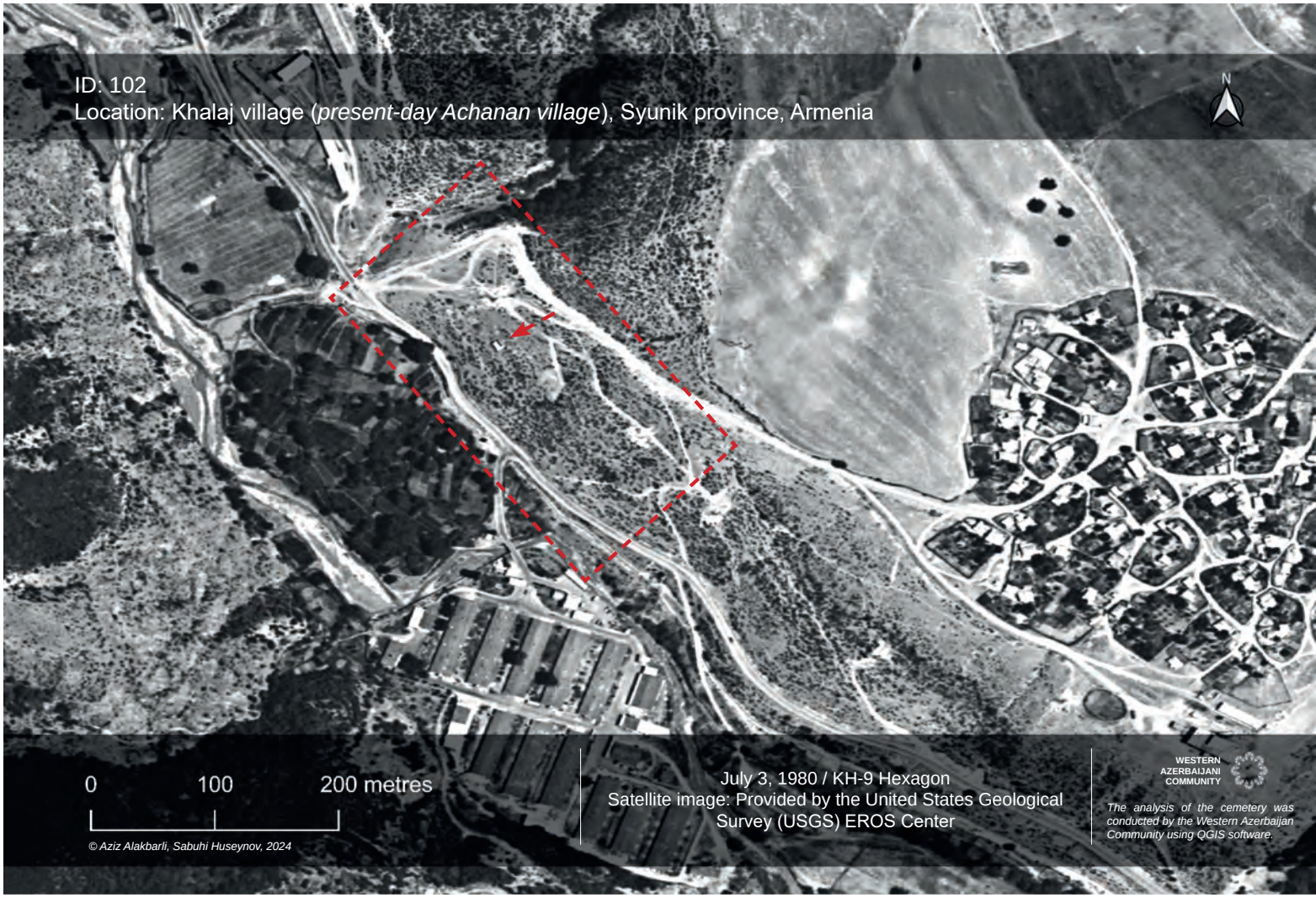
9. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 39.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. April 24, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
15. General'nyï Shtab Sovetskoi Armii, J-38-33-B-g *(Kafan)* [map], scale 1:25000, 1953.
16. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33-B *(Kafan)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 102
Location: Khalaj village (*present-day Achanan village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 102
Location: Khalaj village (*present-day Achanan village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 102
Location: Khalaj village (present-day Achanan village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

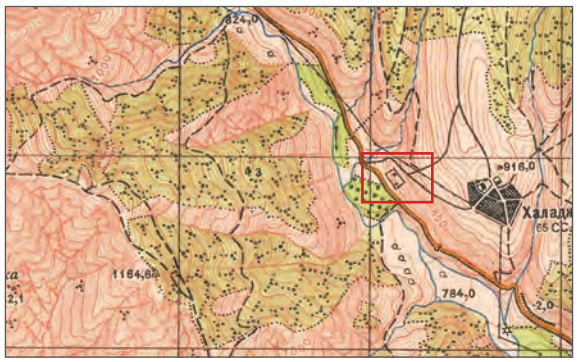
ID: 102
Location: Khalaj village (present-day Achanan village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 24, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 102
Location: Khalaj village (present-day Achanan village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 24, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

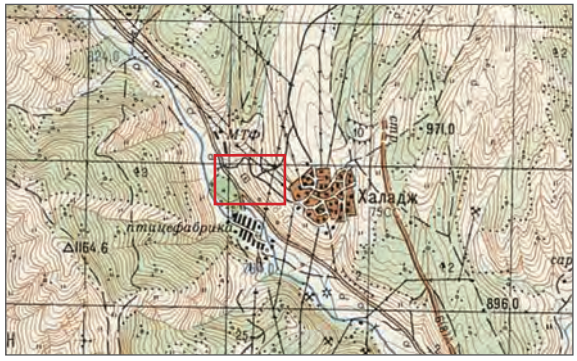
1953

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1953 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

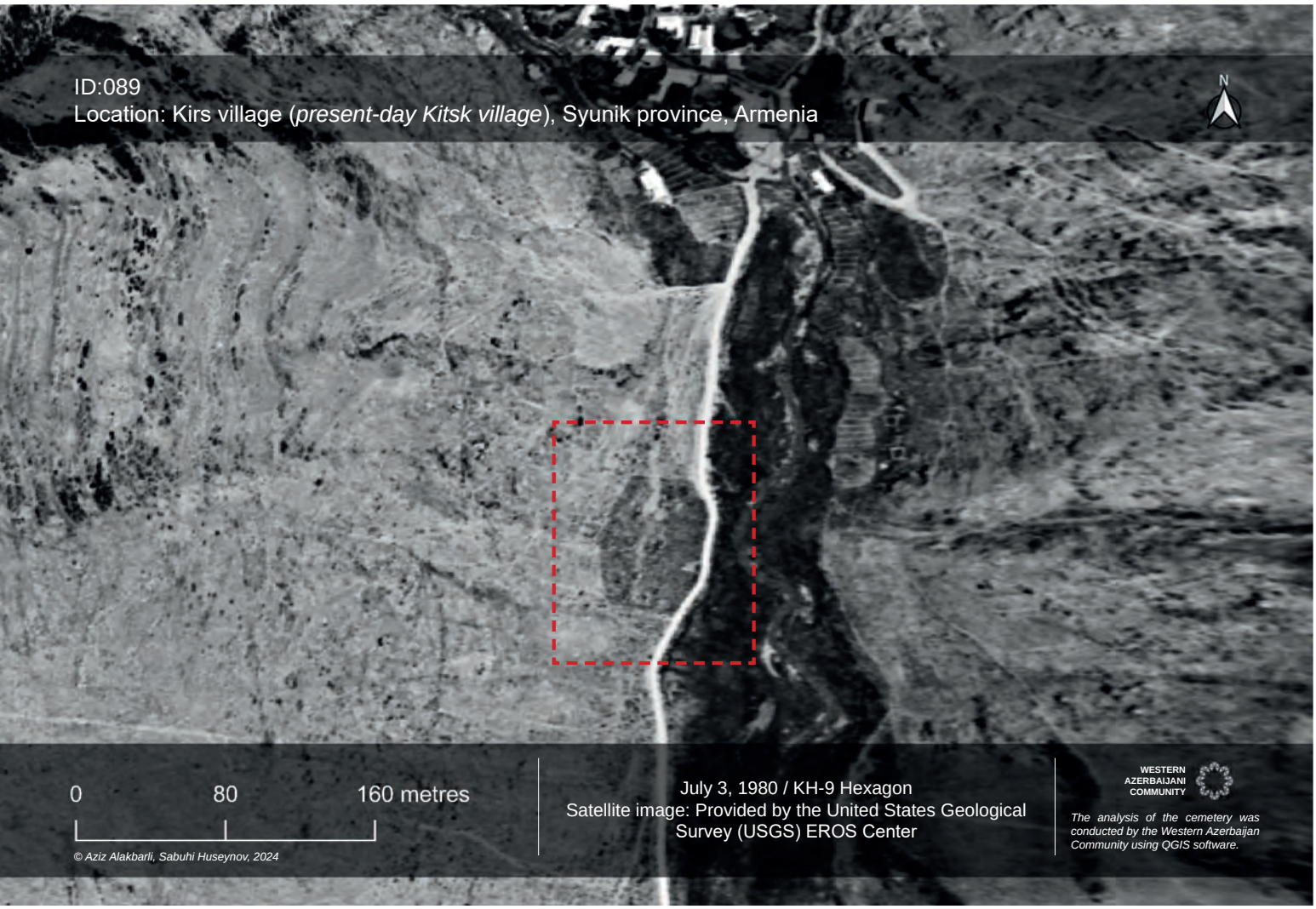


From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Kirs Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Kirs village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Kitsk village (Armenian)
ID: 089 [MC-144], 39.2846477, 46.1088429


ID:089
Location: Kirs village (present-day Kitsk village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Kirs was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located in the upper reaches of the Kurud river, near Kurud village. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Kirs village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[1] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.4 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[2] (WorldView-2) (at right, top) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 200 meters south of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[3] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[4]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

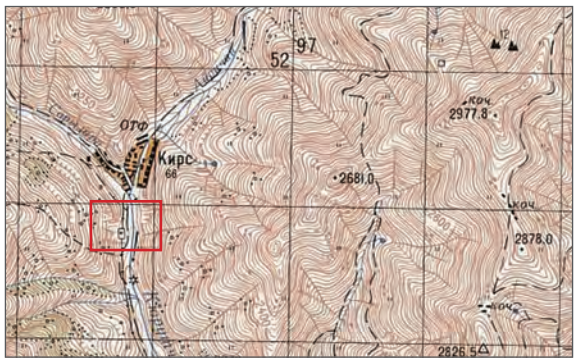
1. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
2. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
3. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-33-A (Gekhi)* [map], 1:50,000, 1974.
4. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-33* (*Kafan*) [map], 1:100,000, 1976.

ID:089
Location: Kirs village (*present-day Kitsk village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2004 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Kurud Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Kurud village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Karut village (Armenian)
ID: 088 [MC-142], 39.269624, 46.1169924

Kurud was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on both banks of the Kurud river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*).

From May 28, 1918, onward, Kurud village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[2] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In 1919, Kurud village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 172 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On December 4, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Kurud village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Kurud village was renamed Karut.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] and October 10, 1983[9] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.43 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. This also indicates that, during that period, it was being maintained by the Azerbaijani population and that efforts were made to keep the area in good condition.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Based on the analysis results, it was found that after the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the cemetery was severely destroyed by 2011. The perimeter walls were demolished, and the tombstones were extensively damaged. In the most recent satellite imagery, no shadow of any tombstone was observed. This suggests either the complete absence of tombstones or that they have been leveled to the ground.

Thus, Kurud cemetery had undergone major changes by 2011. Initially protected, fenced, and actively used, the cemetery was subjected to severe destruction following the deportation of Azerbaijanis; the fences and tombstones were completely demolished. This is also confirmed by subsequent satellite imagery.[11,12]

Kurud cemetery, which reflected an ancient history, was part of the historical presence of Azerbaijanis in the region; its destruction has erased a part of the cultural and historical memory of the Azerbaijani people who had lived in the region for centuries. The inscriptions, religious symbols, and historically significant sculptures on the monuments located in this cemetery were irreversibly destroyed. The extent of the damage inflicted on the cemetery is substantial. The obliteration of Kurud cemetery signifies not only the loss of a physical site, but also the erasure of culture, history, and identity.

GEOLOCATION:

The village cemetery is located 130 meters west of the Kurud river, in the northwestern part of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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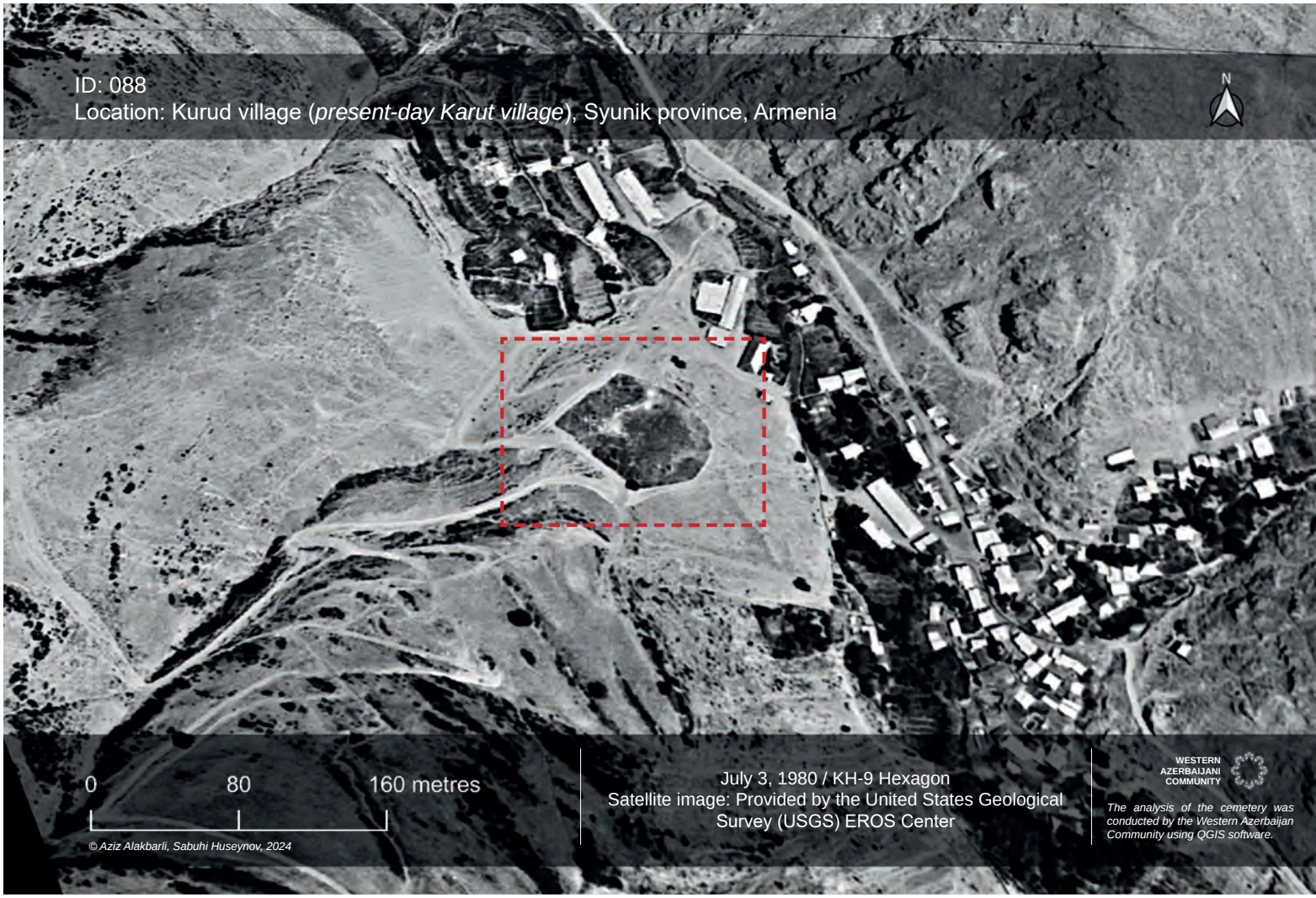
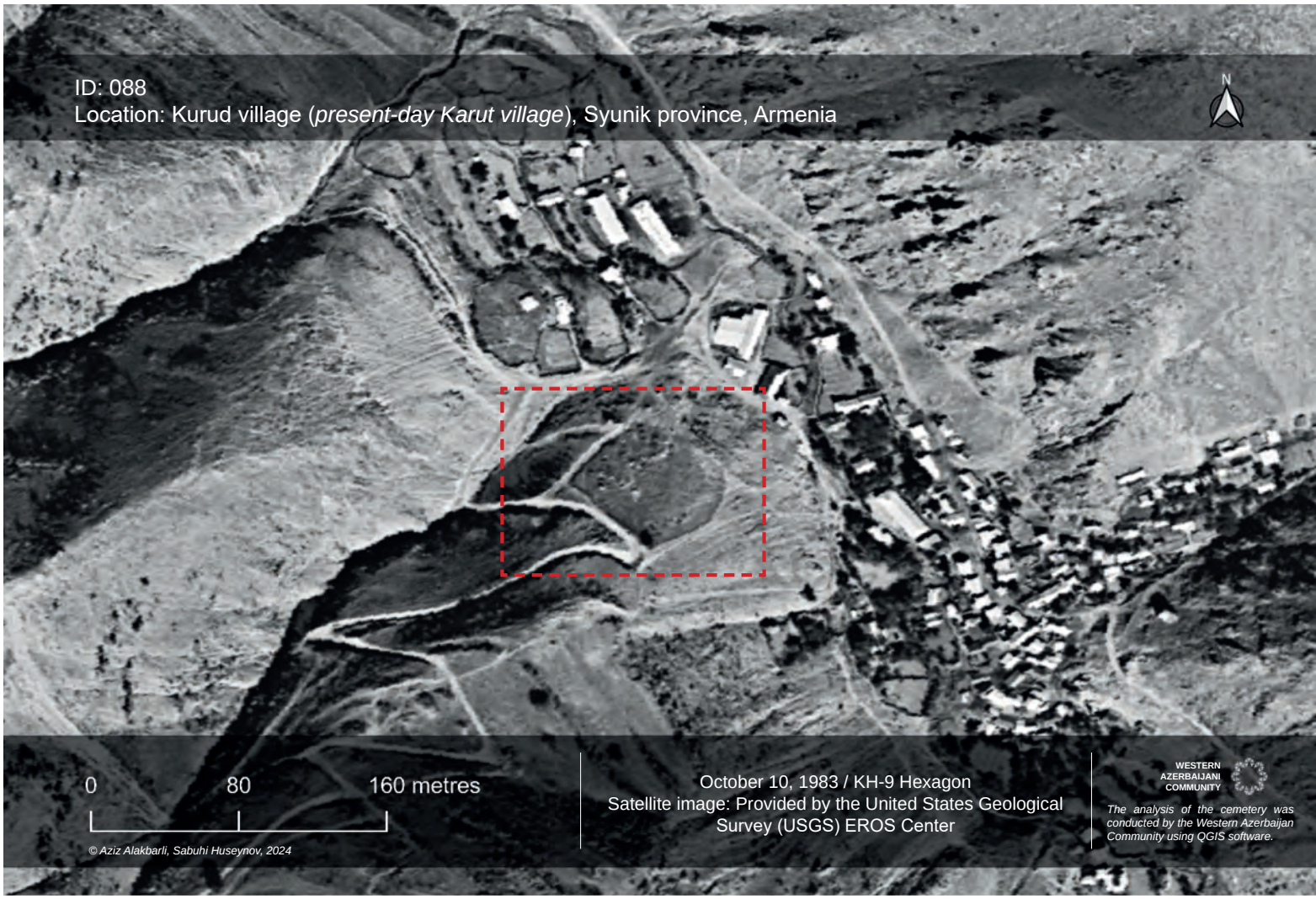
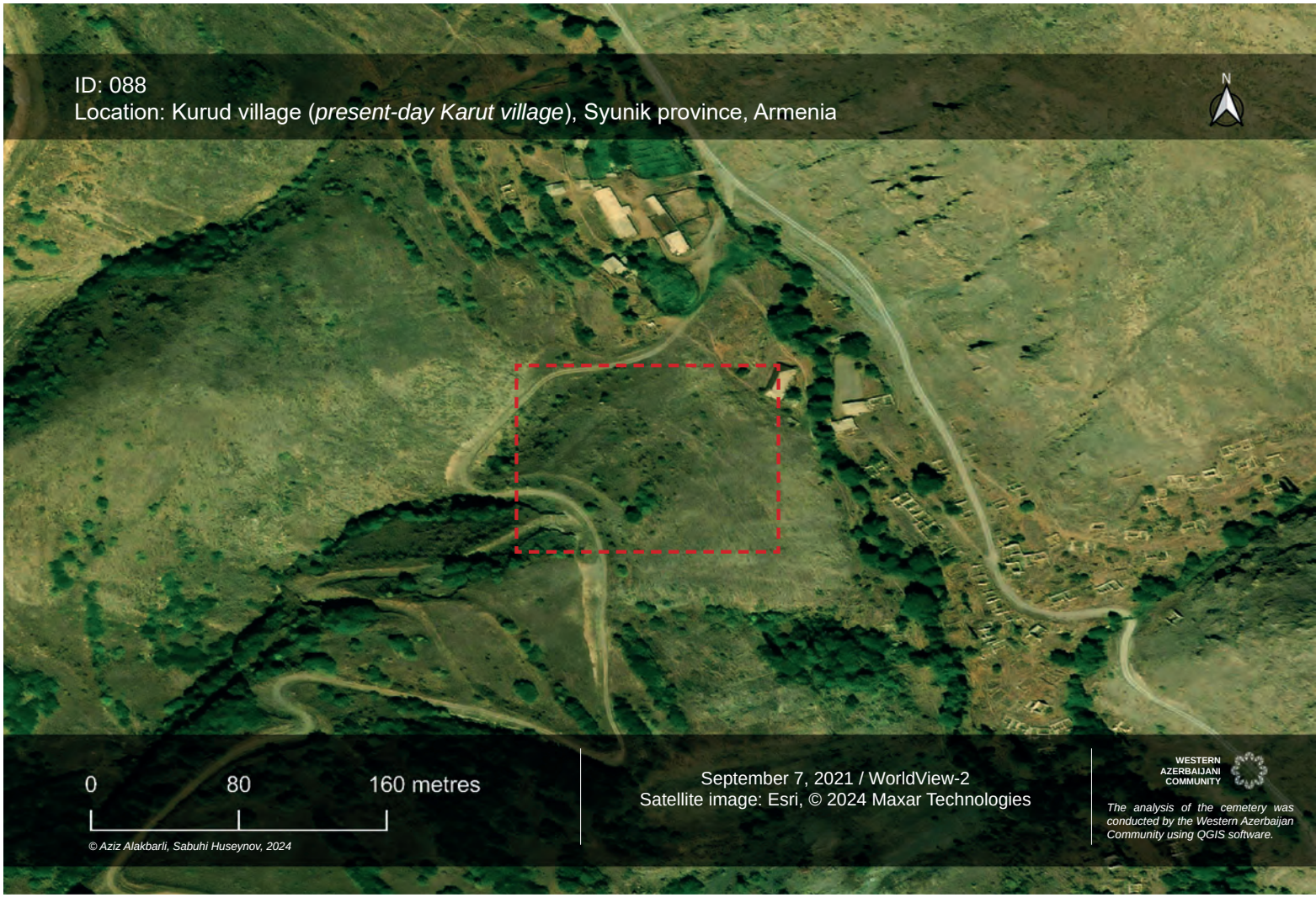
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. August 28, 2018, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. September 07, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-33-A (Gekhi)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 088
Location: Kurud village (*present-day Karut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 088
Location: Kurud village (*present-day Karut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 088
Location: Kurud village (*present-day Karut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

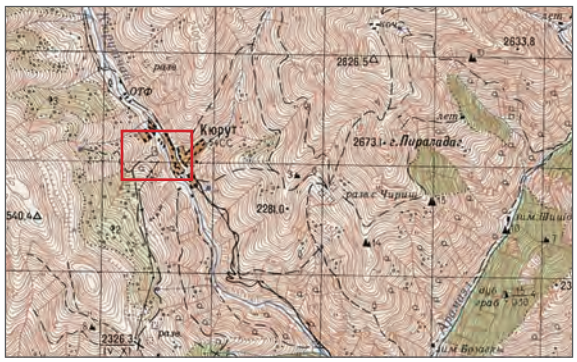
ID: 088
Location: Kurud village (*present-day Karut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 28, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 088
Location: Kurud village (*present-day Karut village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 7, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Mahmudlu Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Mahmudlu village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Getishen village (Armenian)
ID: 092 [MC-145], 39.2281674, 46.1336834

Mahmudlu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located in the Gighi valley, on the left bank of the Gighi river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim settlement as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also identified as Gighili-Mahmudlu. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 263 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] Mahmudlu village, which came under Armenian attack in 1919, was subjected to another Armenian attack in 1919, forcing its population to flee, after which the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, *126 Azerbaijanis* returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] In the 1940s, the village was renamed Chaykend.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Mahmudlu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Mahmudlu village was renamed Getishen.[8]

The village cemetery was one of the oldest cemeteries in the region. Until the mid-19th century, the residents of Gighi and Kurud villages also buried their deceased in the Mahmudlu cemetery.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery was located in the northwestern part of the village, on a slope 50 meters north of the road, covering an area of 0.56 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Based on the results of the analysis, no tombstones were identified within the cemetery area. The area has been almost entirely cleared. This indicates that the destruction process was complete. It was determined that excavation and earthmoving operations were carried out across all parts of the cemetery between 1989 and 2011. Remains of several tombstones were found in the central part of the area. The presence of these remnants by 2011 suggests that the destruction was carried out in phases and that different levels of damage occurred at various times.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2011 and 2021[11] (Airbus) shows that no trace remains of tombstones, fences, or other structural elements. Although the structures located in the central area (identified in the 2011 imagery) can still be faintly discerned in some places, they can no longer be clearly identified. The vegetation cover in the area is nearly absent, which indicates that the destruction process had been completed earlier and that the land remained unused

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the northwest of the village, 50 meters north of the road. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[12] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. September 26, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-A (*Gekhi*) [map], 1:50,000, 1974.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 092
Location: Mahmudlu village (present-day Getishen village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 092
Location: Mahmudlu village (present-day Getishen village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 092
Location: Mahmudlu village (*present-day Getishen village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 26, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Okhtar Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Okhtar village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Okhtar village (Armenian)
ID: 158 [MC-139], 39.282430, 46.353479

Okhtar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan mahal of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Okhtar (Chanakhchi, Khalaj) river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 353 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Okhtar village, which had previously been part of the Norashen village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the autumn of 1918, Okhtar village came under Armenian attack, during which 45 men, 50 women, and 35 children were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1926, 85 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Okhtar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] and October 9, 1983[9] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Findings indicate that the cemetery was identified on the left bank of the Chanakhchi river, covering an area of 0.45 hectares. The area was enclosed by a fence, and the tombstones were clearly identified.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and July 9, 2004[10] (QuickBird-2) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis results, the fence around the area was demolished; in the northwestern and central parts, the tombstones were cleared and replaced with cultivated land, while in the southern part, an artificial pond was built. The recent conversion of the land indicates that the destruction occurred approximately 4 to 6 years before.

These changes demonstrate that the cultural landscape of the area was deliberately altered, and the tombstones were cleared to enable modern agricultural activities. The change in the use of the cemetery area led to its obliteration and the complete loss of its cultural value. This is also confirmed by the satellite image dated 2021 (CNES/Airbus).[11]

GEOLOCATION:

The village cemetery is located to the northwest, on the left bank of the Okhtar river. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[12] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Zängäzur mahalïnïn kameral täsviri 1832–1833-ji illär*, transl., ed., intro., notes, and comments by Nazir Ahmädli (Baku: Elm vä Tehsil, 2021), 254.
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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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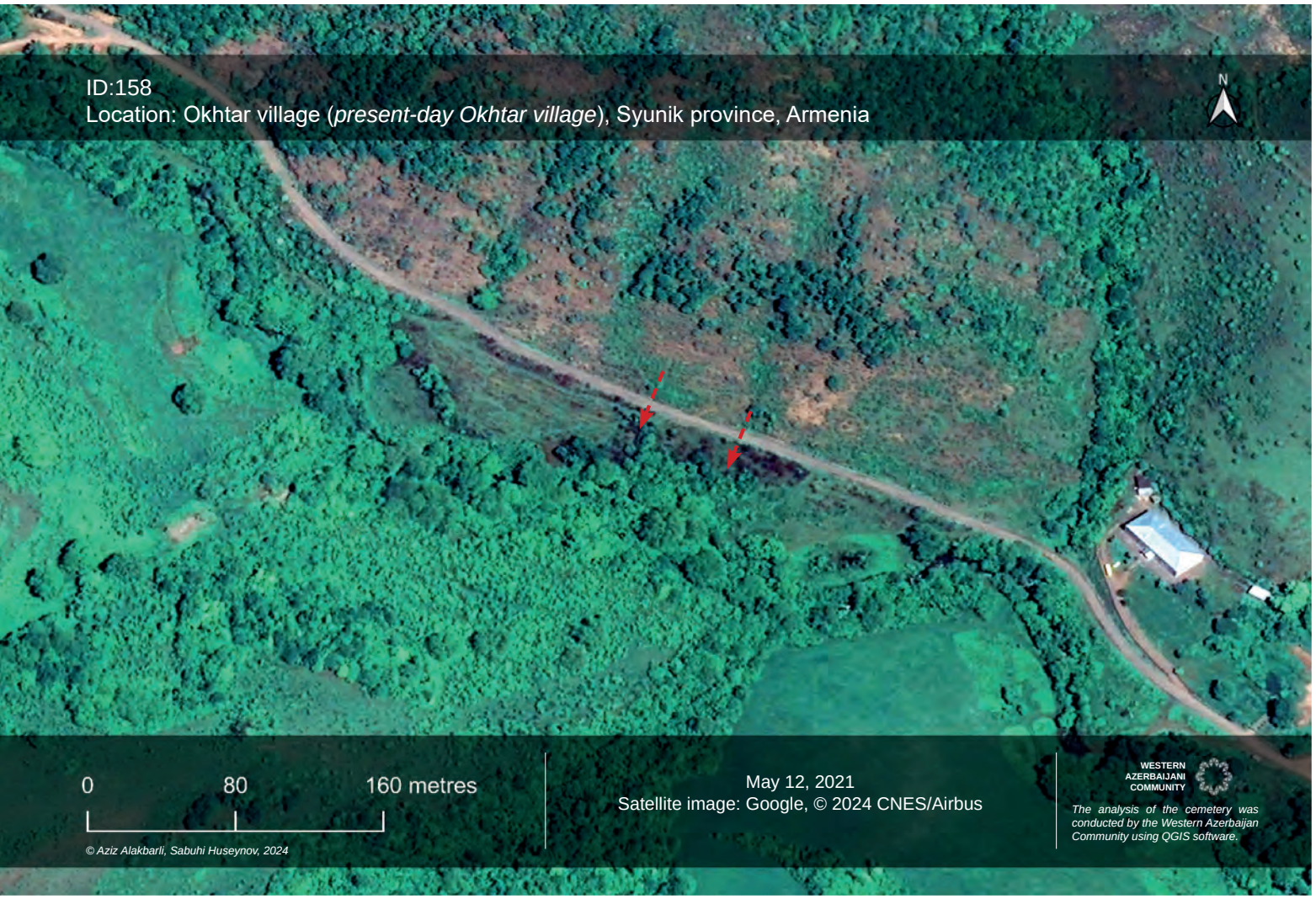
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, July 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. May 12, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-B (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 *(Kafan)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID:158
Location: Okhtar village (*present-day Okhtar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID:158
Location: Okhtar village (*present-day Okhtar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

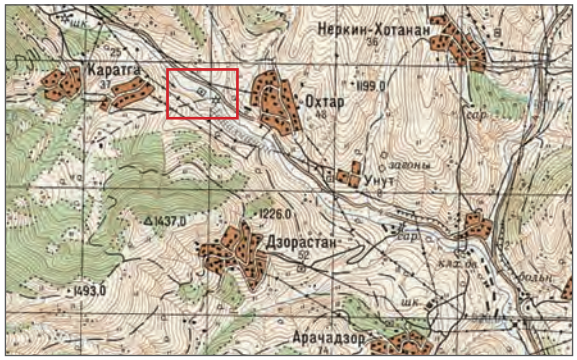
ID:158
Location: Okhtar village (*present-day Okhtar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID:158
Location: Okhtar village (*present-day Okhtar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 12, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

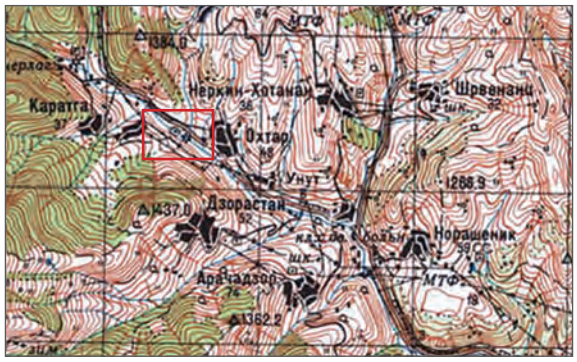
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Payhan Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Payhan village (Azerbaijani) /Syunik province, Nor Astghaberd village (Armenian)
ID: 093 [MC-500], 39.243743, 46.106718

ID: 093
Location: Payhan village (present-day Nor Astghaberd village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Payhan was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located in the upper reaches of the Gighi river, at the foot of the Arimaz and Sarimsagli mountains. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Payhan village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[1] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Payhan village was renamed Nor Astghaberd.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery8 dated July 3, 1980[2] (*at top*) revealed that the cemetery, enclosed by a fence, covered an area of **0.26 hectares**, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1980 and August 31, 2011[3] (Maxar) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings revealed that the cemetery site was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. One tombstone was identified in the northern part of the area, and the fragments of *3–4 destroyed tombstones* were detected in the southern part.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the north-northwest of the village, on the right bank of the Gighi river, at an elevation of 830 meters above sea level. This site was not marked on any of the topographic maps examined by the authors in this research. The authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
3. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.

ID: 093
Location: Payhan village (*present-day Nor Astghaberd village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 093
Location: Payhan village (*present-day Nor Astghaberd village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Siznak Village Old Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Siznak village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Sznak village (Armenian)
ID: 096 [MC-206], 39.1966324, 46.47835328

Siznak was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Okhchuchay river. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Siznak village, which had previously been part of the Arsevan village commune[2] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] In 1918, Siznak village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[4] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 76 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Siznak village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[6]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[7] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings reveal that the cemetery covered an area of nearly 4 hectares, but due to the presence of shrubs and trees and the aged condition of the tombstones, it was not possible to identify them. Nevertheless, the structure of the cemetery had been preserved, and there were boundary lines separating it from surrounding farmland. Topographic analyses conducted by the authors showed that until 1953, the road passed south of the cemetery and did not encroach upon its territory. However, in subsequent years, under the pretext of "road infrastructure development" by the leadership of the Armenian SSR, the road was rerouted and constructed over the old cemetery. As a result, a large portion of the cemetery was damaged during the renovation of the Gafan–Zangilan road. This process, which began with the division of the cemetery, ultimately led to its obliteration.

This cemetery, which was visited with great reverence by the population of the Gafan district and the neighboring districts of the Azerbaijani SSR, also possessed a distinct feature. For many years, Azerbaijanis visited the "Bel Dashi" sacred site located beneath an oak tree on the northern side of the road within the cemetery, as well as the tomb of Ziya Baba from Aghkend, buried under the hackberry tree on the southern side of the road.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[8] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis results, the northern part of the cemetery was entirely obliterated between 1989 and 2004, while the southern part was partially obliterated and converted into farmland. The satellite imagery dated 2004 showed that only 0.64 hectares of the cemetery remained. This area was surrounded by trees and shrubs. Both trees, beneath which graves were located, remained in place till 2004.

A comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 20049 and October 14, 2009 (GeoEye-1) confirmed that both trees had been removed and that the western part of the 0.64-hectare area identified in the 2004 imagery had also been obliterated.

The changes that occurred in 1988 resulted in the obliteration of the cemetery and the complete transformation of the site. These processes were aimed at the erasure of the Azerbaijani people's cultural heritage, the elimination of a site of religious significance, and the erasure of their historical presence in the area. As a result, the traces of the Azerbaijani people's history and culture in this area have been almost entirely erased.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located along the Gafan–Zangilan road. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1951 (1:25,000 scale)[10], 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11], and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1951 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. "*Delo o vooruzhennom napadenii i razgrome seleni Siznak Zangezurskogo uezda*," ARDA, f.1061, op.1, d.8, ll.5–6.
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7. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
8. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
9. *GeoEye-1*, October 14, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-B-g (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:25,000, 1953.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-B (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 096
Location: Siznak village (present-day Siznak village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 096
Location: Siznak village (present-day Siznak village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

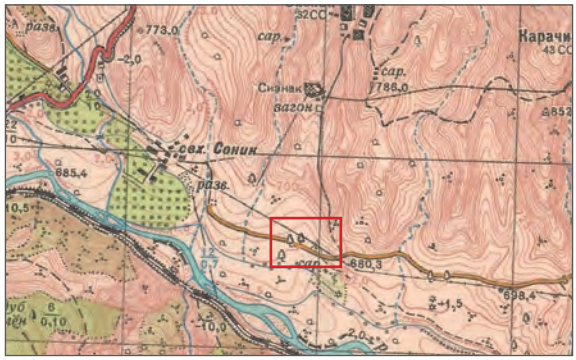
ID: 096
Location: Siznak village (present-day Siznak village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 14, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 096
Location: Siznak village (present-day Siznak village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 26, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

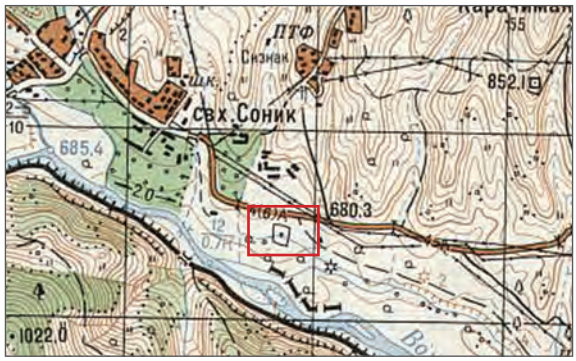
1953

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1953 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



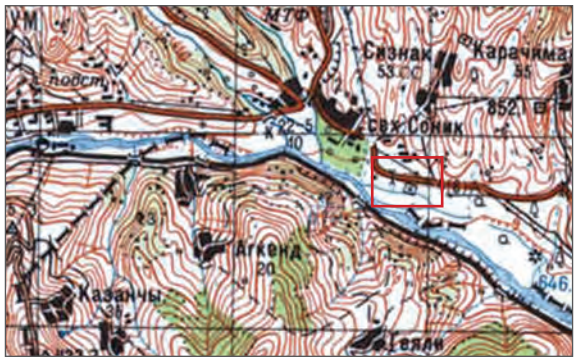
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Shabadin Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Shabadin village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Yegheg village (Armenian)
ID: 098 [MC-141], 39.2941047, 46.4184946

Shabadin was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the southwestern foothills of Aghjagayin mountain. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 275 Azerbaijani (recorded as *"Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Shabadin village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In 1918, Shabadin village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 151 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shabadin village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Shabadin village was renamed Yegheg.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 1 hectare, with tombstones primarily identified in the western part of the site. The tombstones were arranged in neat, orderly rows. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2004[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis results, the cemetery was severely damaged, and this destruction led to its complete obliteration. The intensive growth of vegetation within the cemetery area, along with its full conversion into pasture or other uses, indicates that the destruction occurred a long time ago. A large number of tombstone fragments remain under the vegetation cover.

Considering that the regrowth of such vegetation in the destroyed cemetery area would have required at least 5–10 years, the authors estimate that the destruction and obliteration process likely took place shortly after 1988, between 1989 and 1995.

Thus, the cemetery of one of the region's ancient Azerbaijani-populated villages was completely wiped off the map in a short period of time. It is difficult to determine from satellite imagery whether any tombstones remain under the vegetation cover. However, overall findings confirm that the area was heavily damaged and destroyed. This destruction was most likely accompanied by acts of vandalism and looting, and the area was ultimately used as pasture. This is also confirmed by the satellite imagery dated 2021.[11]

The destruction of cemeteries was part of a deliberate policy by Armenia aimed at erasing the Azerbaijani cultural heritage of the region and eliminating the historical presence of the displaced Azerbaijani population.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 300 meters south of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1953 (1:25,000 scale)[12], 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13], and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1953 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *GeoEye-1*, August 21, 2021, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-B-b (*Artsvanik*) [map], scale 1:25,000, 1953.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33-B (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 098
Location: Shabadin village (*present-day Yegheg village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

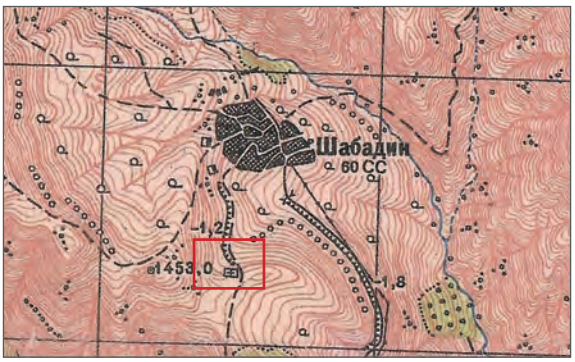
ID: 098
Location: Shabadin village (*present-day Yegheg village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 098
Location: Shabadin village (*present-day Yegheg village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 22, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1953

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1953 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

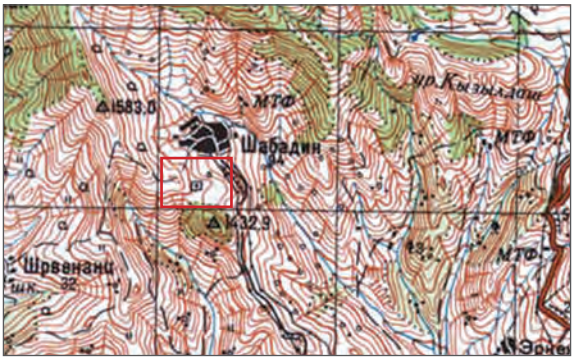


1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

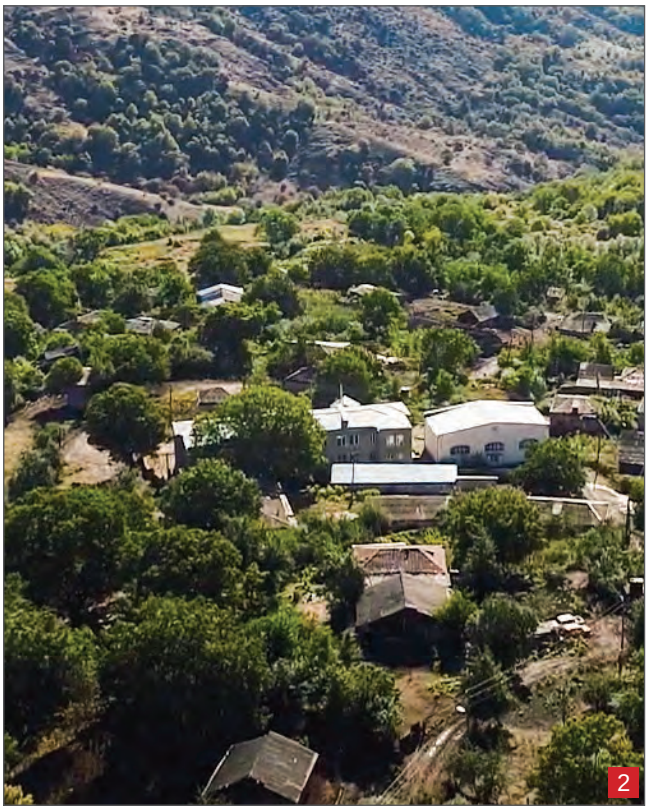
1976

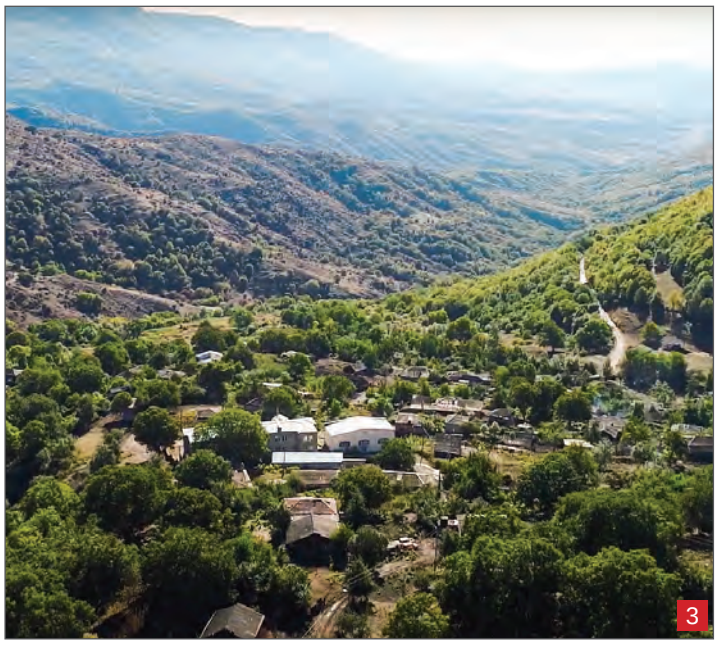
Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1


2


3

4

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Shaharjik Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Shaharjik village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Shgharshik village (Armenian)
ID: 087 [MC-557], 39.231315, 46.333685

Shaharjik was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Okhchuchay river, on the eastern foothills of the Galadagh mountain. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 180 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Shaharjik village, which had previously been part of the Ughurchay village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1919, Shaharjik village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5,6] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 262 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shaharjik village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

In the lower part of the village cemetery, there was an ancient grave known as the tomb of Bandar Padishah.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[10] and July 3, 1980[11] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.7 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1980 and June 9, 2004[12] (GeoEye-1) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated entirely at a certain point between 1989 and 2009, with only three graves preserved during that period. By the latter date, the cemetery area had been cleared, leveled, and repurposed for use as household plots.

In 2018, the Armenian press published reports allegedly concerning the preservation of the Azerbaijani cemetery in Shaharjik village by an Armenian resident of Gafan named E. Movsesyan. In these reports, Movsesyan claimed that after purchasing a portion of the cemetery land, he had preserved the graves located there. Photographs depicting three headstones in the cemetery were also published. E. Movsesyan stated that he had purchased his house in Shaharjik and the plot of land adjacent to the cemetery 18 years earlier, that is, in 1999–2000 (Images Nos. 1–4). Another resident of the village, S. Babayan, reported that there had once been numerous graves in the Azerbaijani cemetery, and that during the war (*referring to the years 1991–1994, A.A., S.H.*), dozens of graves were destroyed, while the Armenians living in the village preserved about ten tombstones.[13]

Thus, the deliberate destruction of the cemetery is also corroborated by eyewitness testimonies.

Taking into account both the eyewitness accounts and the fact that the vegetation cover observed in the 2004 satellite imagery would have required at least 5 to 10 years to develop fully, the authors estimate that the destruction and obliteration of the cemetery likely took place shortly after 1988, approximately between 1990 and 1995.

GEOLOCATION:

The Shaharjik village cemetery is located in the western part of the village, 300 meters north of the school building. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 200.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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6. "*Diplomaticheskomu predstavitelyu Azerbaidzhana Vekilovu*," telegram, no. 1935, Baku, December 10, 1919, SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 2, d. 78, ll. 31–34, original document.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 136-137.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 318.
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11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *QuickBird-2,* June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
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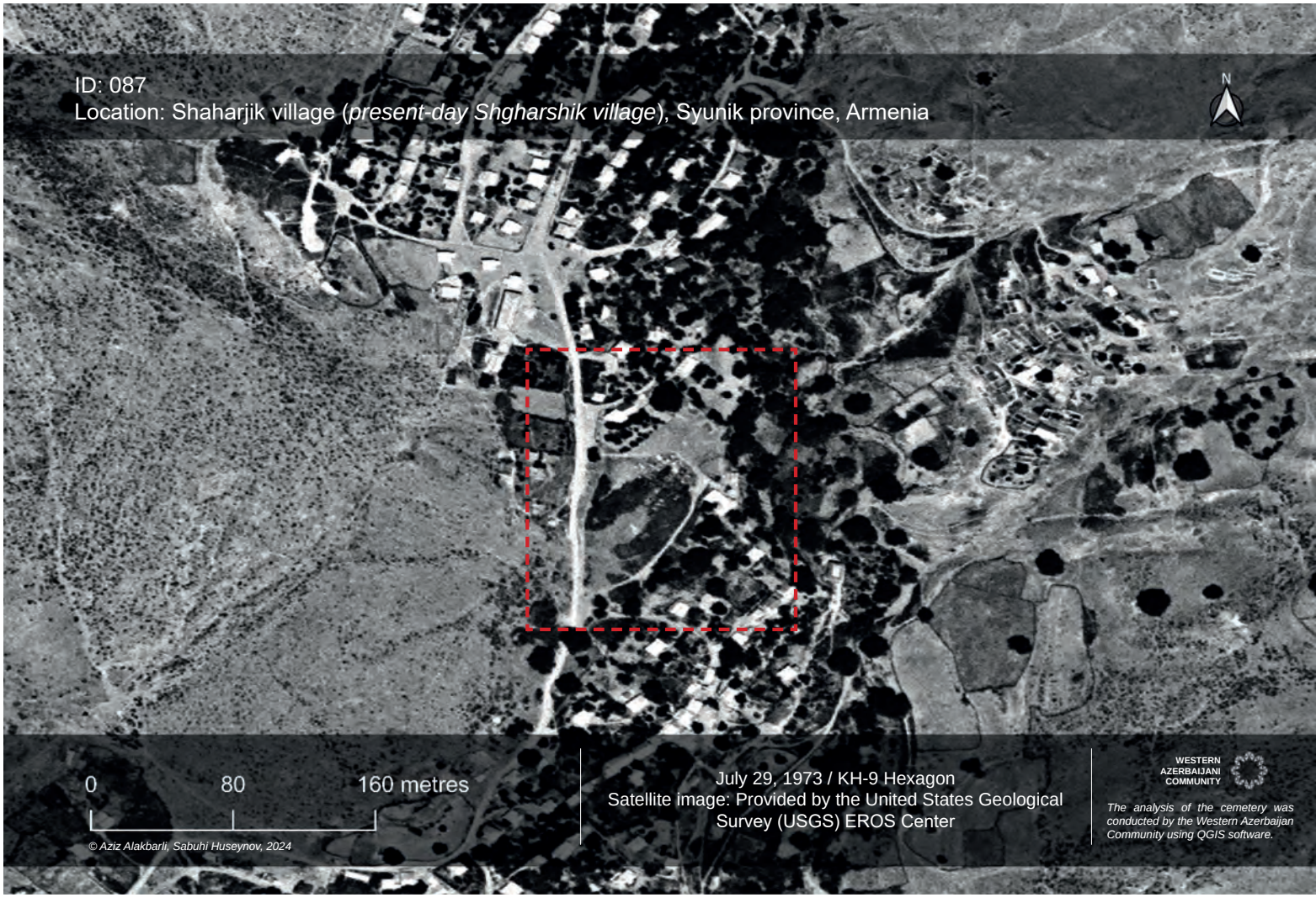
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-33 (*Kafan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 087
Location: Shaharjik village (*present-day Shgharshik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 087
Location: Shaharjik village (*present-day Shgharshik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 087
Location: Shaharjik village (*present-day Shgharshik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 087
Location: Shaharjik village (*present-day Shgharshik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 22, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

© JAMNews, 2018

From 1989 to 1997

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Giratagh Village Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Yukhari Giratagh village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Verin Giratagh village (Armenian)
ID: 104 [MC-553], 39.238442, 46.265771

Yukhari Giratagh was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located at the foot of the Bargushad mountain range, between the mountains of Chamandaghi, Chirag Obali, and Buru Deresi. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim settlement as early as the 1590s.[1] Giratagh village was also known as Gilatagh. After the establishment of Ashaghi (Lower) Giratagh village, the original village came to be known as Yukhari (Upper) Giratagh. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 289 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Giratagh village, which had previously been part of the Okhchu village commune[3] within the 5th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1919, Govshud village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 261 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] During the Soviet period, Yukhari Giratagh was renamed Verin Giratagh.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Giratagh village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7]

A cemetery and a pir (sacred site of spiritual veneration) known as Kakilli Piri were located in Yukhari Giratagh. In the village cemetery, there was a medieval stone known among the local population as Beldashi, which was regarded as sacred by the Azerbaijani residents.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.98 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Although no traces of a perimeter wall around the cemetery were identified, Soviet-era photographic records reveal the presence of iron railings surrounding the tombstones. The cemetery was established on a slope. To the east of this cemetery, a second cemetery containing several additional graves was identified.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 5, 2012[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2012. In the latter satellite imagery, the remnants of several tombstones were detected, and it was established that the southern part of the cemetery had been cleared of stones and repurposed for cultivation. Considering the intensive vegetation growth in the area, the major destruction is estimated to have occurred between 1989 and 1997.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2012 and August 1, 2018[11] (WorldView-2) showed that the cemetery area remained unchanged during this period.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2018 and September 26, 2021[12] (CNES/Airbus) revealed that intensive earth-moving activities had been carried out in the area.

As a result of these processes, the remnants of the historical cemetery were completely lost. While only cultivated fields were visible in the area as of 2012, satellite imagery from 2021 revealed that the area had been bulldozed and a road had been constructed, deeply excavated into the land.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the south-southeast of the village. This site was most likely not marked on the topographic maps examined by the authors due to its small size. Based on spatial analysis of the photographic records, the cemetery was identified in the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery, and its precise coordinates were determined.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 57.
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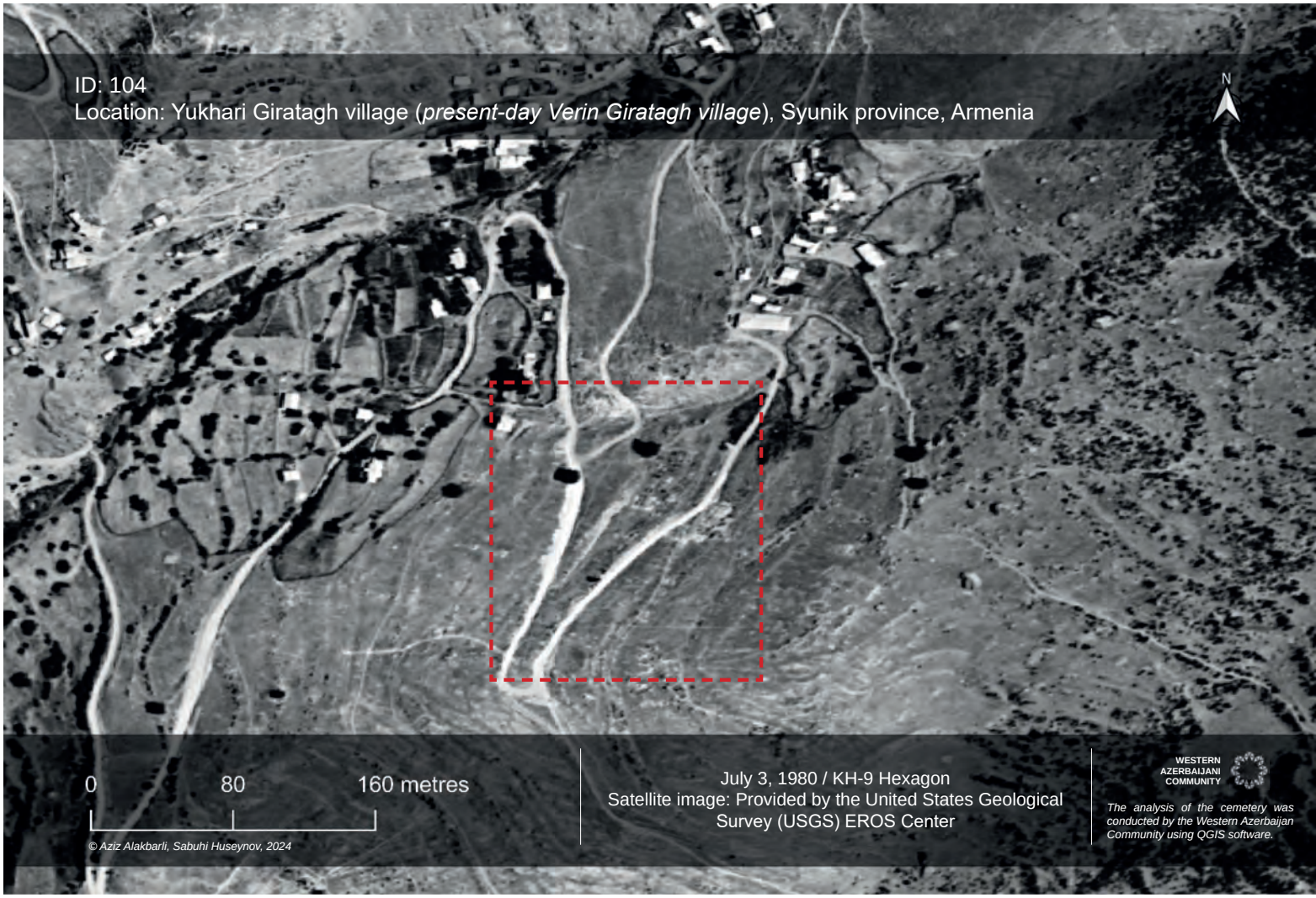
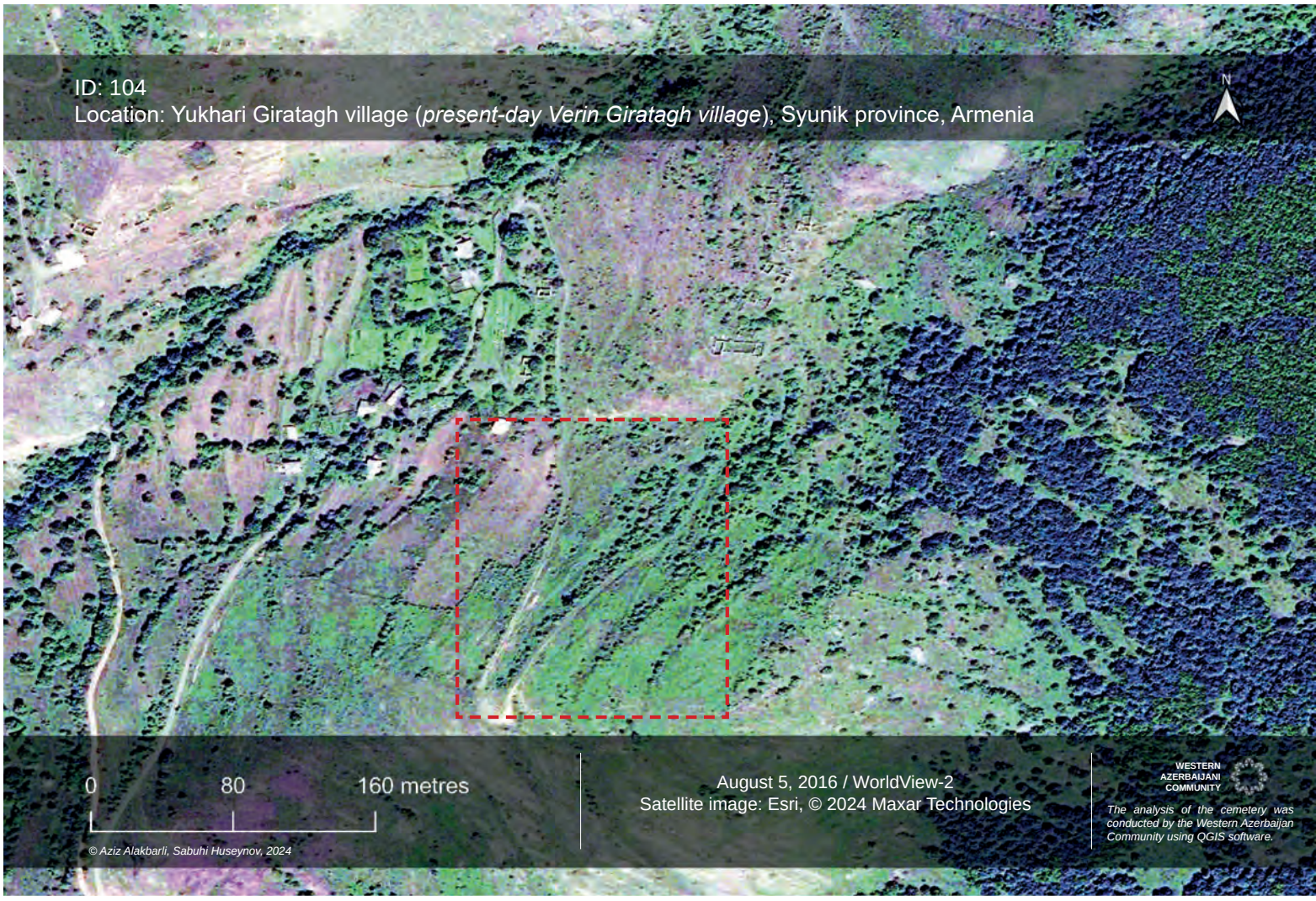
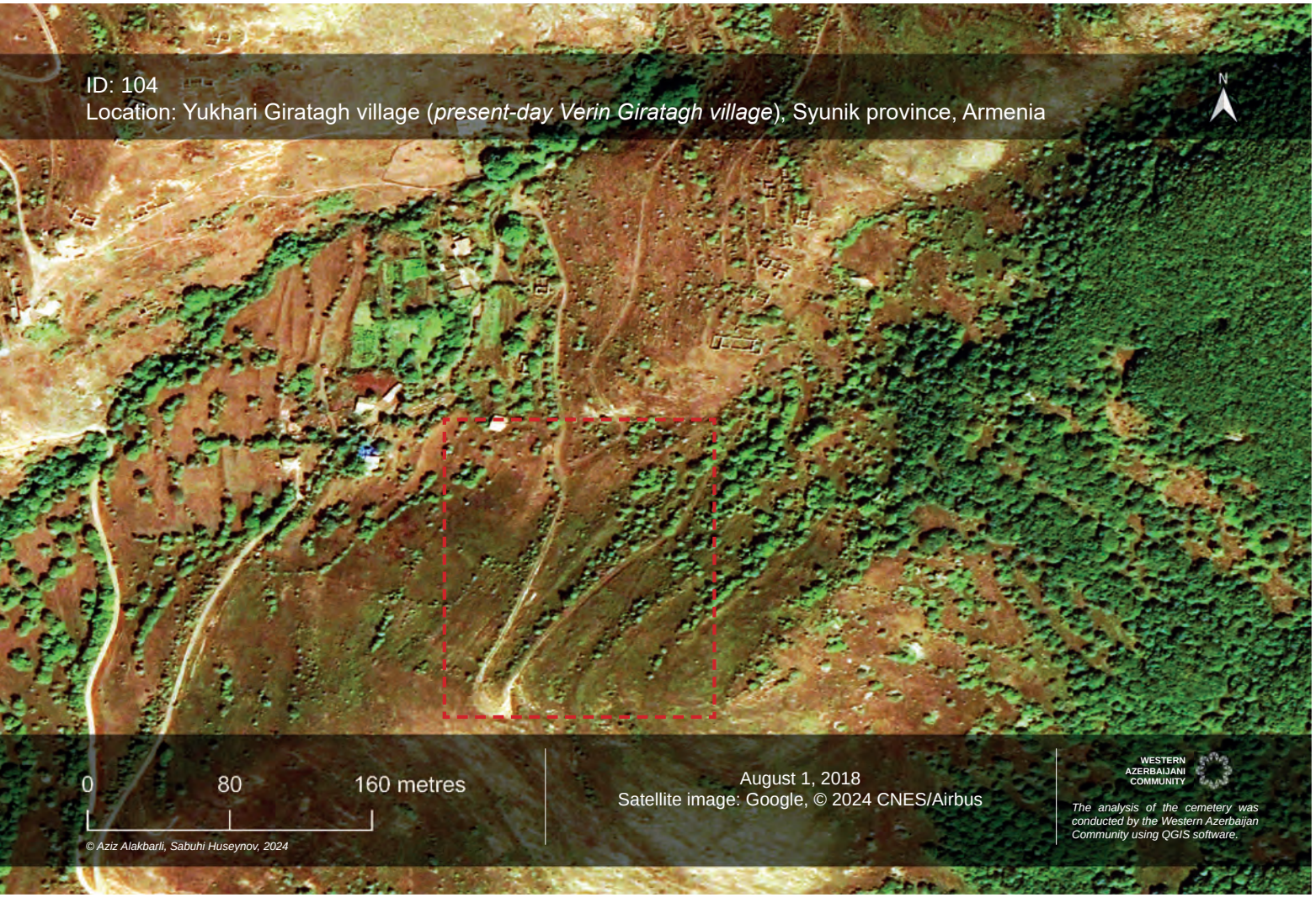
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi Azärbayjan abidäläri* (Baku: "Aghrıdagh" neshriyyati, 2006), 168.
8. Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri*, 352.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, August 05, 2012, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. *WorldView-2*, August 01, 2018, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
12. September 26, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.


ID: 104
Location: Yukhari Giratagh village (*present-day Verin Giratagh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 104
Location: Yukhari Giratagh village (*present-day Verin Giratagh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 5, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 104
Location: Yukhari Giratagh village (present-day Verin Giratagh village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 1, 2018
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 104
Location: Yukhari Giratagh village (present-day Verin Giratagh village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 26, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 2014 CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Godakli Village Old Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Yukhari Godakli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vardavank village (Armenian)
ID: 193 [MC-024], 39.242621, 46.506335

Yukhari Godakli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located 14 km east of the city of Gafan, on the right side of the Gorus–Gafan highway. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim settlement as early as the late 19th century.[1] It was founded by people who had migrated from the Godakli village. From that period onward, Godakli village came to be known as Ashaghi Godakli. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 79 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Yukhari Godakli village, which had previously been part of the Arsevan village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1919, Yukhari Godakli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 132 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] Beginning in 1956, Yukhari Godakli village was referred to as Verin Godakli on topographic maps.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Godakli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Yukhari Godakli village was renamed Vardavank.[8]

In Yukhari Godakli village, there were two cemeteries. One of these cemeteries—the old cemetery—was located on the right side of the road leading to Jibilli village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.5 hectares, with tombstones identified in the central part. It was situated on the left bank of the river that flows through Yukhari Godakli village from Jibilli village, in an area rich in tall trees. It was determined that the cemetery was surrounded by a fence and trees.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 29, 2004[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2009. The area was most likely not in use. The tombstones identified at the center in the 1980 imagery had been completely destroyed in this period. Considering the intensive vegetation growth in the area, the major destruction is estimated to have occurred between 1989 and 1995.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2004, October 24, 2009[11] (GeoEye-1) and June 20, 2024[12] (Airbus) revealed no significant changes within the cemetery area during this period.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in a valley, on the right side of the road leading to Jibilli village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1956 (1:25,000 scale)[13], 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14], and 1978 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1956 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. Dakhili İshler Nazirliyine Aghdamdan 349 №-li teleqram, ARDA, f.894, op.4, d. 65. l. 28, copy.
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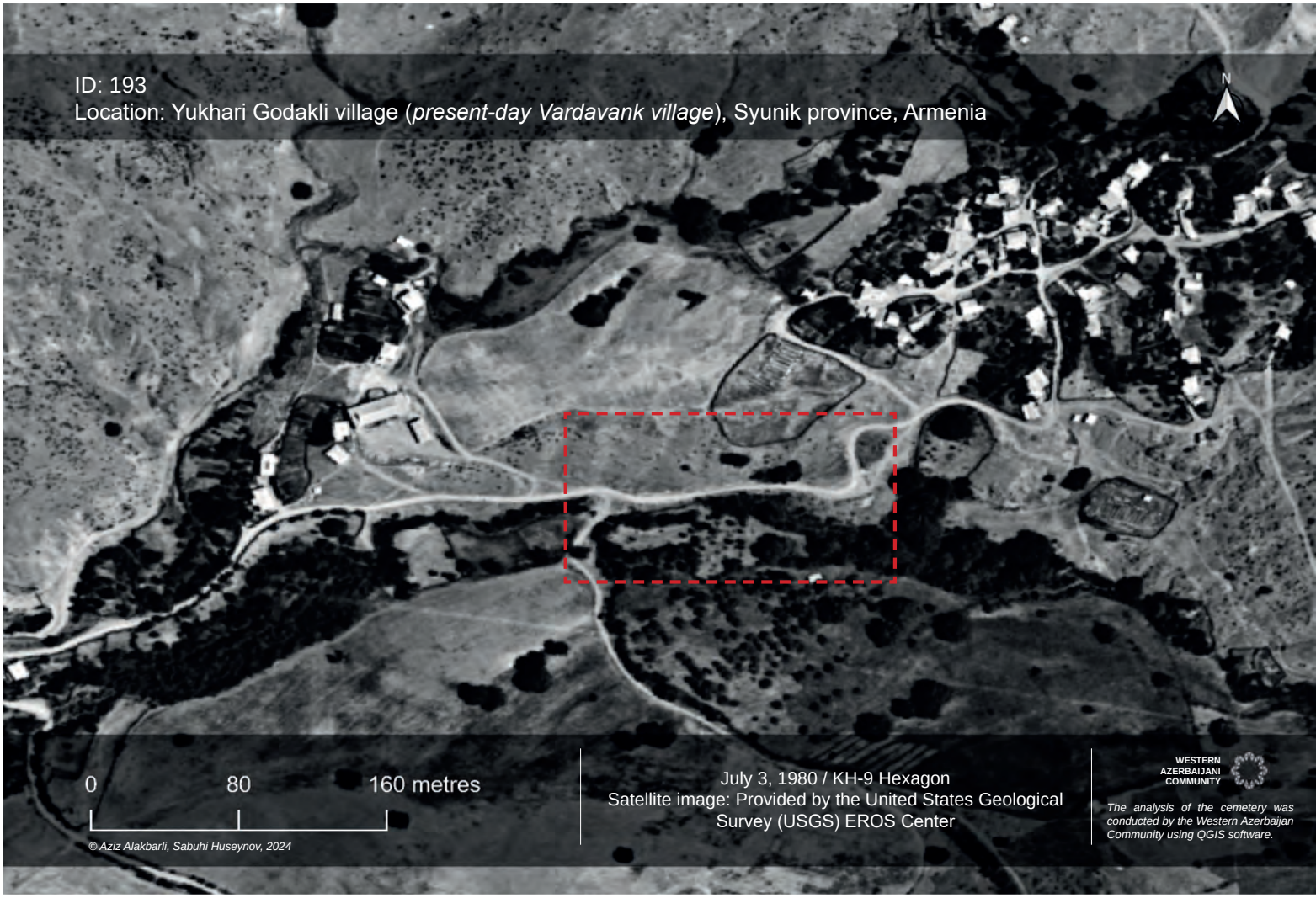
8. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 67.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS
10. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. June 20, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-34-A-v (*Egvard*) [map], scale 1:25,000, 1956.
14. General'nyï Shtab , J-38-34-A (*Khanlyk*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-34 (*Zangelan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1978.


ID: 193
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 193
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 193
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
October 24, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 193
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
June 20, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
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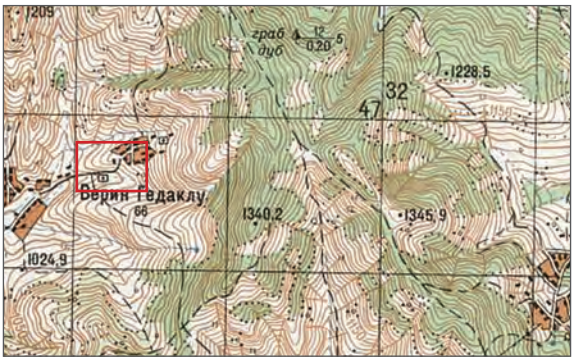
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1956

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1956 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

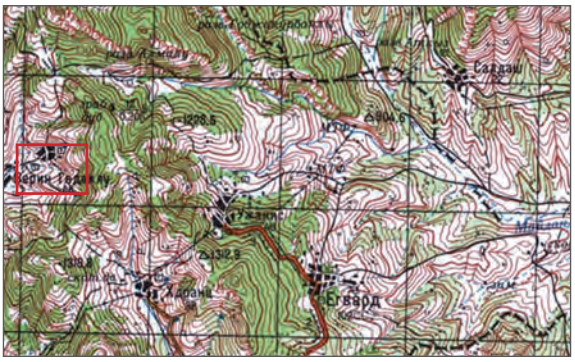
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1978

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Godakli Village New Cemetery

Location: Gafan district, Yukhari Godakli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vardavank village (Armenian)
ID: 195 [MC-549], 39.243063, 46.492760

Yukhari Godakli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Gafan *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located 14 km east of the city of Gafan, on the right side of the Gorus–Gafan highway. It was incorporated into Gafan district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim settlement as early as the late 19th century.[1] It was founded by people who had migrated from the Godakli village. From that period onward, Godakli village came to be known as Ashaghi Godakli. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 79 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Yukhari Godakli village, which had previously been part of the Arsevan village commune[3] within the 3rd police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1919, Yukhari Godakli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 132 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] Beginning in 1956, Yukhari Godakli village was referred to as Verin Godakli on topographic maps.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Godakli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Yukhari Godakli village was renamed Vardavank.[8]

In Yukhari Godakli village, there were two cemeteries. One of these cemeteries—the new cemetery—was located on the right side of the road leading to Ashaghi Godakli village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] and October 10, 1983[10] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.15 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 and June 9, 2004[11] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery suffered extensive destruction between 1989 and 2004, ultimately resulting in its obliteration. The intense overgrowth of vegetation across the site suggests that the destruction took place approximately 10–15 years earlier, more precisely between 1990 and 1995. A large number of stone fragments and the foundations of tomb structures were preserved beneath the vegetation cover.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2004 and October 24, 2009[12] (GeoEye-1) indicated that the cemetery area remained stable.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 and April 28, 2024[13] (Airbus) confirmed the presence of earthmoving and road repair activities in the area. However, the land does not appear to have been repurposed for any alternative use. This is likely due to the area's topographical features and underlying water-related issues.

Thus, shortly after the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the cemetery was subjected to severe acts of vandalism, aimed at erasing all traces of their historical presence. The destruction that took place between 1990 and 1995 led to the complete disappearance of the cemetery. In the 2004 satellite imagery, only traces of the destruction, now overgrown with vegetation, could be observed.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated 700 meters from the village, on the right side of the road leading to Ashaghi Godakli village. The cemetery was not marked on any of the maps included in the study. The authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Dakhili İshler Nazirliyine Aghdamdan 349 №-li teleqram*, ARDA, f.894, op.4, d. 65. l. 28, copy.
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7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi Azärbayjan abidäläri* (Baku: "Aghrïdagh" näshriyyatï, 2006), 324.
8. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 67.
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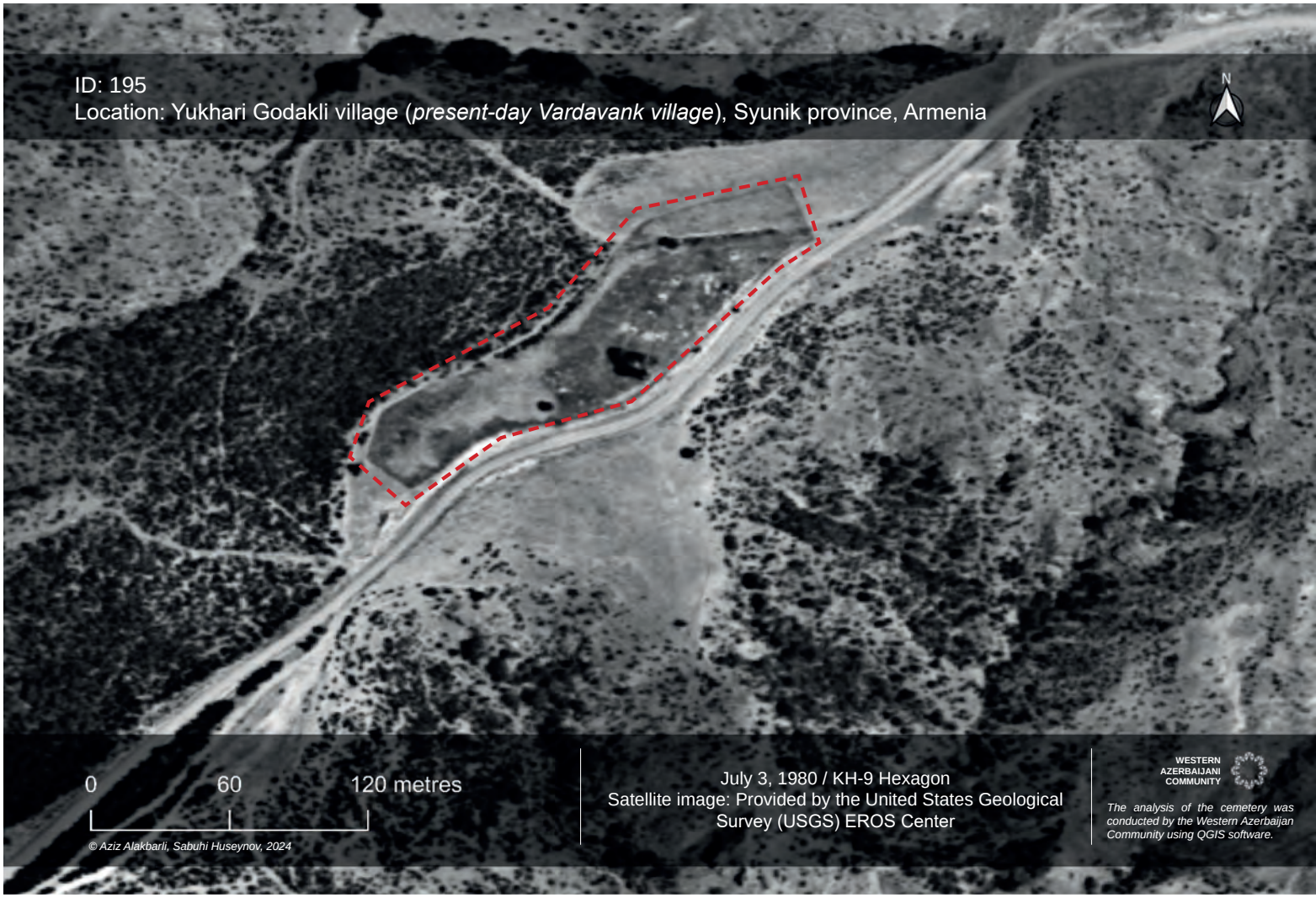
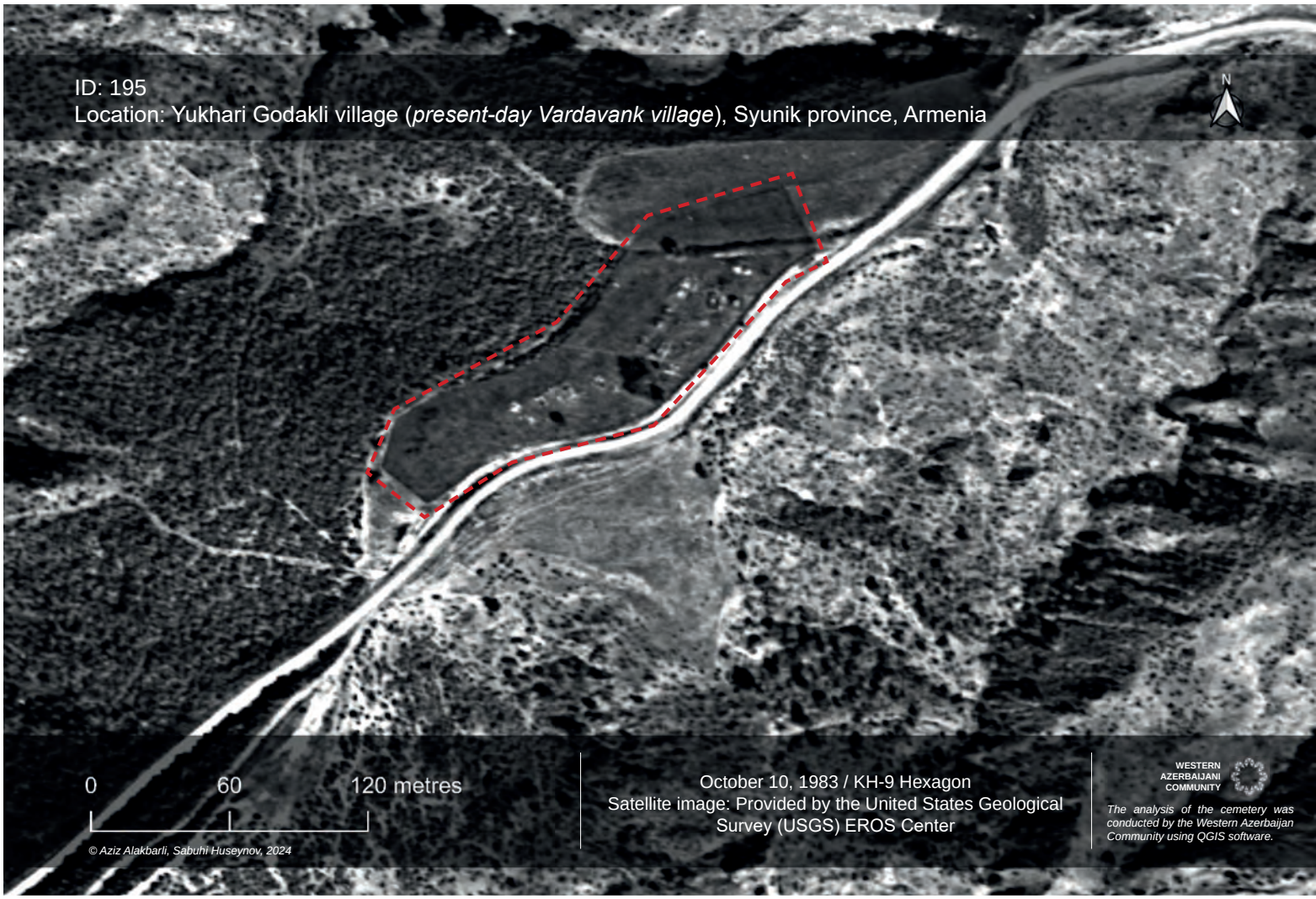
10. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, June 09, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *GeoEye-1*, October 24, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. June 20, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.


ID: 195
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

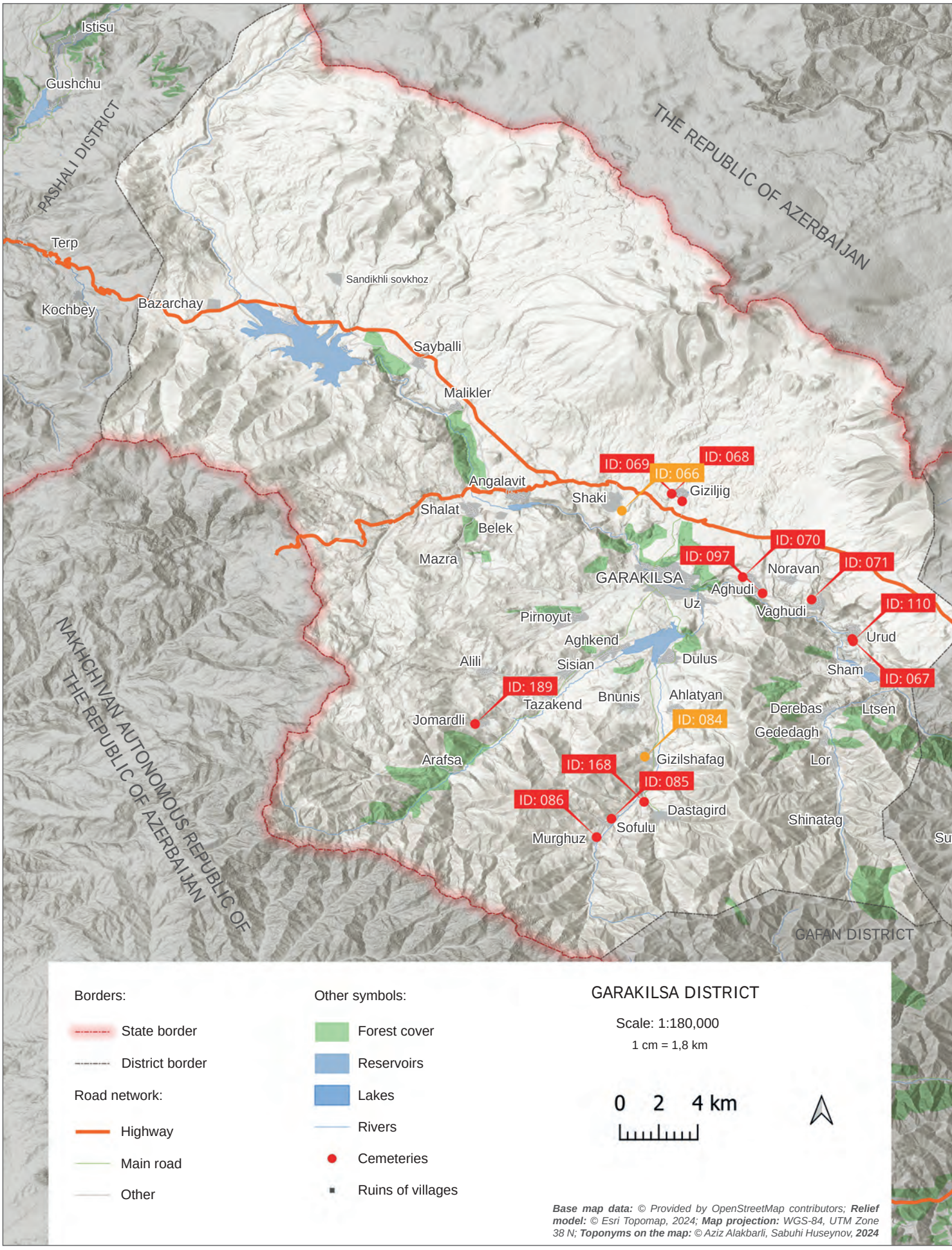

ID: 195
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

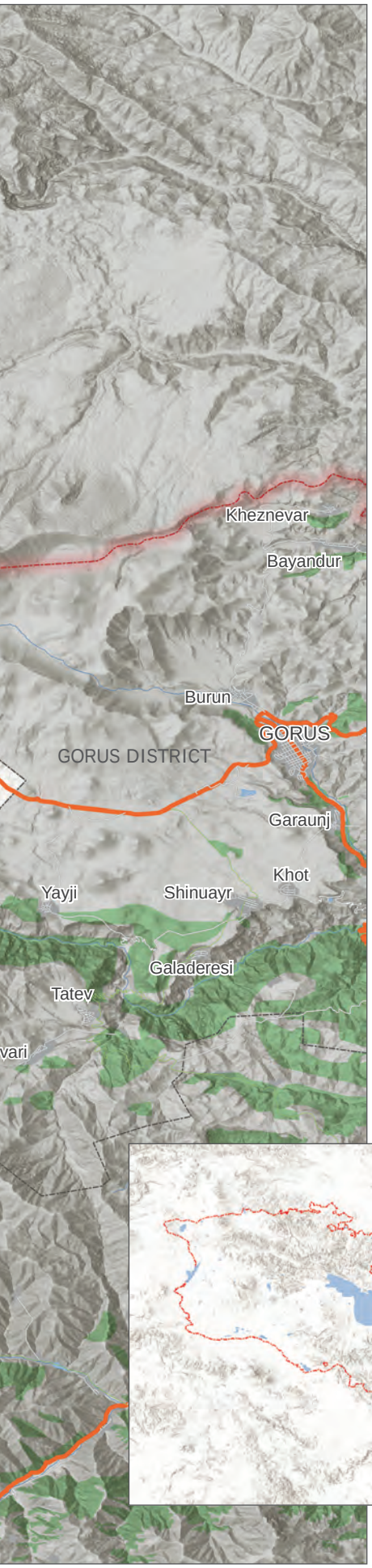
ID: 195
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 195
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 24, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 195
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 12, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 195
Location: Yukhari Godakli village (*present-day Vardavank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 20, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


Istisu
Gushchu
PASHALI DISTRICT
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Terp
Sandikhli sovkhoz
Kochbey
Bazarchay
Sayballi
Malikler
ID: 069
ID: 068
ID: 066
Angalavit
Giziljig
Shaki
Shalat
Belek
Mazra
ID: 070
ID: 097
ID: 071
Noravan
GARAKILSA
Aghudi
Uz
Vaghudi
ID: 110
Pirnoyut
Urud
Aghkend
Alili
Sisian
Dulus
Sham
ID: 067
NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
ID: 189
Bnunis
Ahlatyan
Tazakend
Derebas
Ltsen
Jomardli
ID: 084
Gededagh
Arafsa
Gizilshafag
Lor
ID: 168
ID: 085
ID: 086
Dastagird
Shinatag
Sofulu
Murghuz
GAFAN DISTRICT
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
GARAKILSA DISTRICT
Scale: 1:180,000
1 cm = 1,8 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



GARAKILSA DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Zangazur region.
Administrative designation: Garakilsa district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 1,719 sq. km.

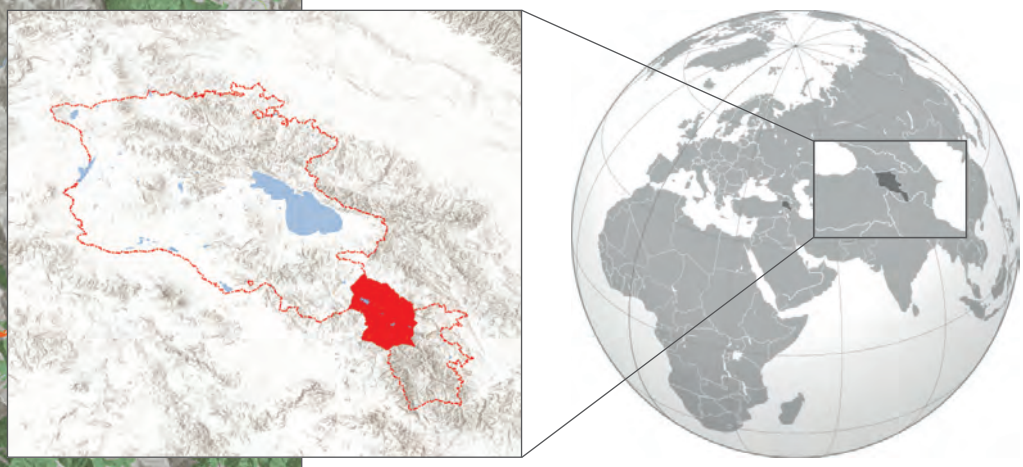
The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Garakilsa (*later renamed Sisian, A.A., S.H.*), located 217 km from Iravan city.

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated March 2, 1940, Garakilsa district was renamed Sisian.

According to 1970 data, the district included 2 urban-type settlements, 17 village councils, and 36 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 31,500, with 8,700 residing in urban areas and 15,900 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Aghudi, Vaghudi, Bazarchay, Jomardli, Dastagird, Arafsa, Murghuz, Garakilsa, Giziljig, Shaki, Shikhlar, Sofulu, Urud, and Noravan.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Syunik province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghudi Village New Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Aghudi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Aghitu village (Armenian)
ID: 097 [MC-439], 39.511389, 46.087608

Aghudi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Bazarchay river, between the Vaghudi village and Garakilsa settlement. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,070 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Aghudi village, which had previously been part of the Vaghudi village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In September 1918, Aghudi village came under Armenian attack, during which 150 men, 100 women, and 75 children were killed. Survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 298 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Aghudi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Aghudi village was renamed Aghitu.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.28 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery area suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2011. The western part of the cemetery was repurposed as a sand quarry.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and January 7, 2014[11] revealed that several tombstones within the cemetery area were still standing at that time.

Further comparative analysis of the 2014 and 2022[12] satellite imagery confirmed the continuation of severe destruction, indicating that the grave slabs visible in earlier imagery were no longer present or had sunk into the ground, rendering them no longer visible in the imagery.

Thus, following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the cemetery was subjected to severe acts of vandalism and destruction, which have continued into the present day. As a result, between 91% and 100% of the cemetery's horizontally visible area has been destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

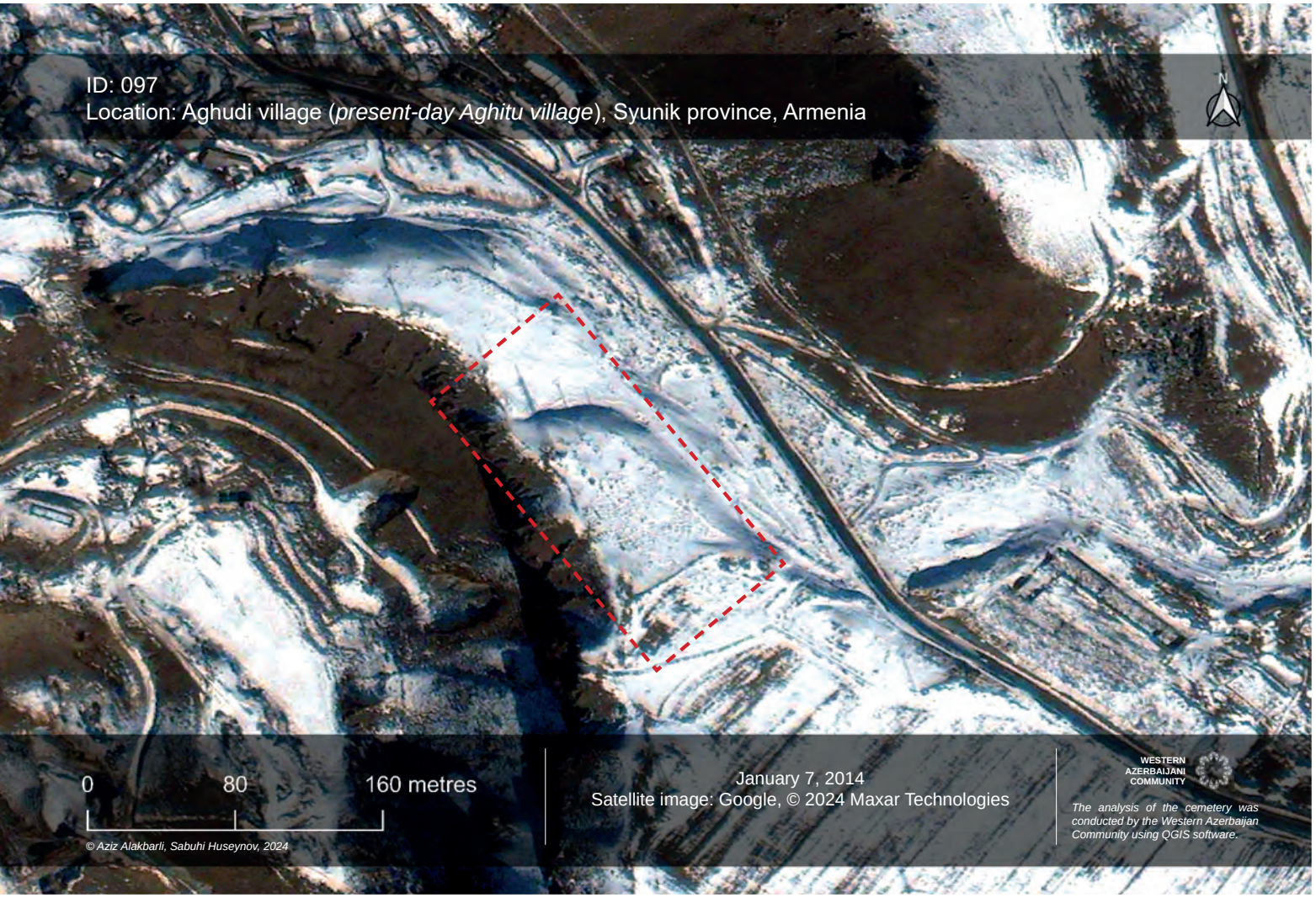
The new cemetery of Aghudi village is located in the southern part of the village, 350 meters from the village, on the right side of the road toward Vaghudi village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Zängäzur mahalïnïn kameral täsviri 1832–1833-ji illär*, transl., ed., intro., notes, and comments by Nazir Ahmädli (Baku: Elm vä Tehsil, 2021), 151.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 84.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 53.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. "*O razgrome armyanami musul'manskogo seleniya Agudi Zangezurskogo uezda*," ARDA, f. 1061, op. 1, d. 66, ll. 5–6; № 162. Pis'mo Andranika generalu Bagratuni o svoikh deystviyakh po organizatsii soprotivleniya turetskoy ekspansii i zashchite Zangezura, 8(21) dekabrya 1918 g., Goris, in *Andranik Ozanian, Dokumenti i materialy, Vestnik arkhivov Armenii* 1 (89)–2 (90) (Erevan: Banber Ayastani Arxivneri, 1991), 321, 328.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 145-147.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qarbi Azerbayjanlilarin 1988-ci il soyqirimi (senedlerin dili ile)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 247.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. January 07, 2014, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. 20 July, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-A (*Sisian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21 (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 097
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 097
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

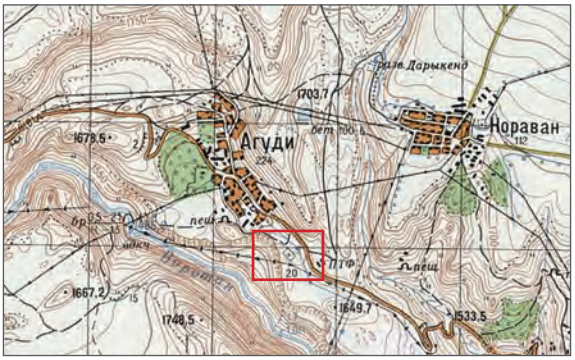

ID: 097
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 7, 2014
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 097
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

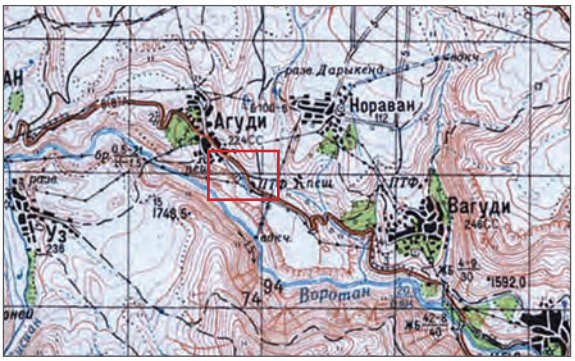
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Aghyazi Cemetery of Aghudi Village

Location: Garakilsa district, Aghudi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Aghitu village (Armenian)
ID: 070 [MC-170], 39.5210285, 46.0758239

Aghudi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Bazarchay river, between the Vaghudi village and Garakilsa settlement. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,070 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Aghudi village, which had previously been part of the Vaghudi village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In September 1918, Aghudi village came under Armenian attack, during which 150 men, 100 women, and 75 children were killed. Survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 298 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Aghudi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Aghudi village was renamed Aghitu.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.97 hectares, with older tombstones identified through a heterogeneous, patchy surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. A new Armenian cemetery was established in the western part of the former cemetery site.

In 2013, a photographer named Bertramz, who visited the area, captured images of several damaged tombstones remaining from the cemetery. These photographs once again confirm the process of obliteration. Alongside a small number of nameless and broken tombstones, the photographer also documented a tombstone inscribed in Arabic script (Images Nos. 4–5).

The date inscribed on the tombstone corresponds to Hijri year 1271, or 1854 in the Gregorian calendar. In 2021, another photographer, Gurdeep Mattu, took a photograph of a destroyed crypt within the cemetery. Acts of vandalism were observed on the door of the crypt. Part of the inscription, reading "*häzä tarikhi el-märhum...1255-in (1840) tarikhidir*' ("*This is the date of the late... 1255*" (1840)), was legible. However, due to vandalism, the name of the individual buried in the crypt had been erased, making identification impossible (images Nos. 2–3).

A comparative analysis of the 2013 and July 20, 2022[11] (CNES/Airbus) satellite imagery revealed the construction of several new dirt roads traversing the cemetery area.

Thus, following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the cemetery was subjected to severe acts of vandalism and destruction, and all inscribed tombstones were obliterated. The construction of dirt roads across the site marked the final stage in the process of its obliteration.

GEOLOCATION:

Aghyazi cemetery is located on a high hill to the left of the present-day H44 highway, in the direction of Garakilsa. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Zängäzur mahalïnïn kameral täsviri 1832–1833-ji illär*, transl., ed., intro., notes, and comments by Nazir Ahmädli (Baku: Elm vä Tehsil, 2021), 151.
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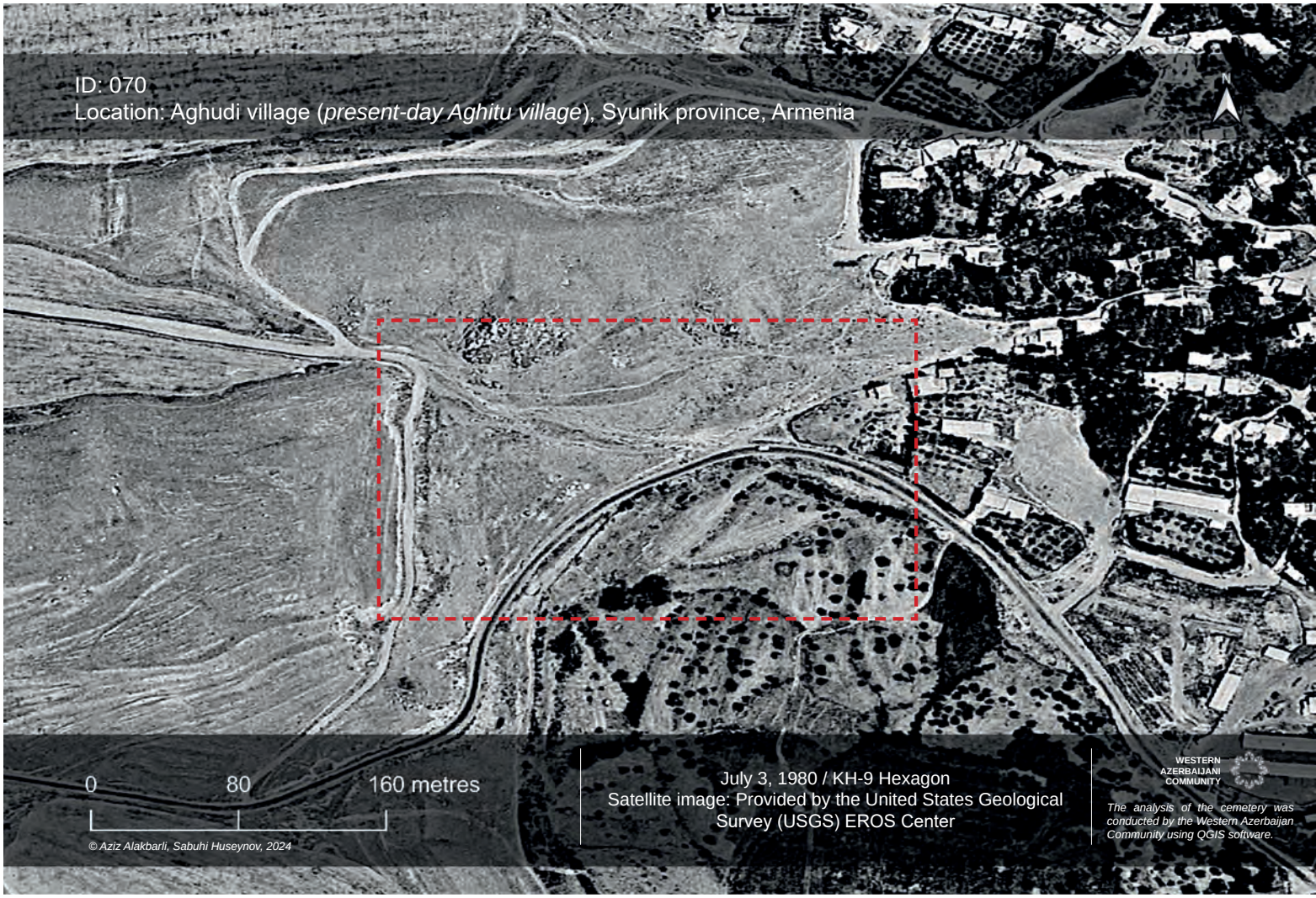
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 53.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. "*O razgrome armyanami musul'manskogo seleniya Agudi Zangezurskogo uezda*," ARDA, f. 1061, op. 1, d. 66, ll. 5–6; № 162. Pis'mo Andranika generalu Bagratuni o svoikh deystviyakh po organizatsii soprotivleniya turetskoy ekspansii i zashchite Zangezura, 8(21) dekabrya 1918 g., Goris, in *Andranik Ozanian, Dokumenti i materialy, Vestnik arkhivov Armenii* 1 (89)–2 (90) (Erevan: Banber Ayastani Arxivneri, 1991), 321, 328.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 145-147.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 247.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
11. 20 July, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-21-A (*Sisian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 070
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

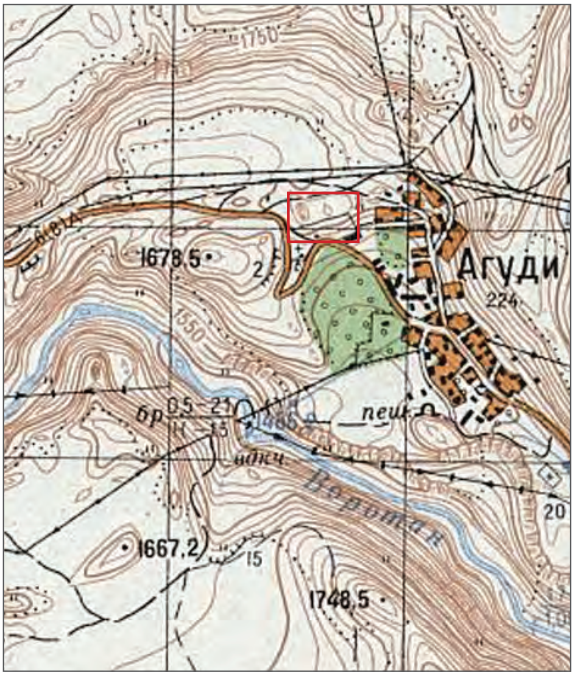
ID: 070
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 070
Location: Aghudi village (*present-day Aghitu village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
July 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

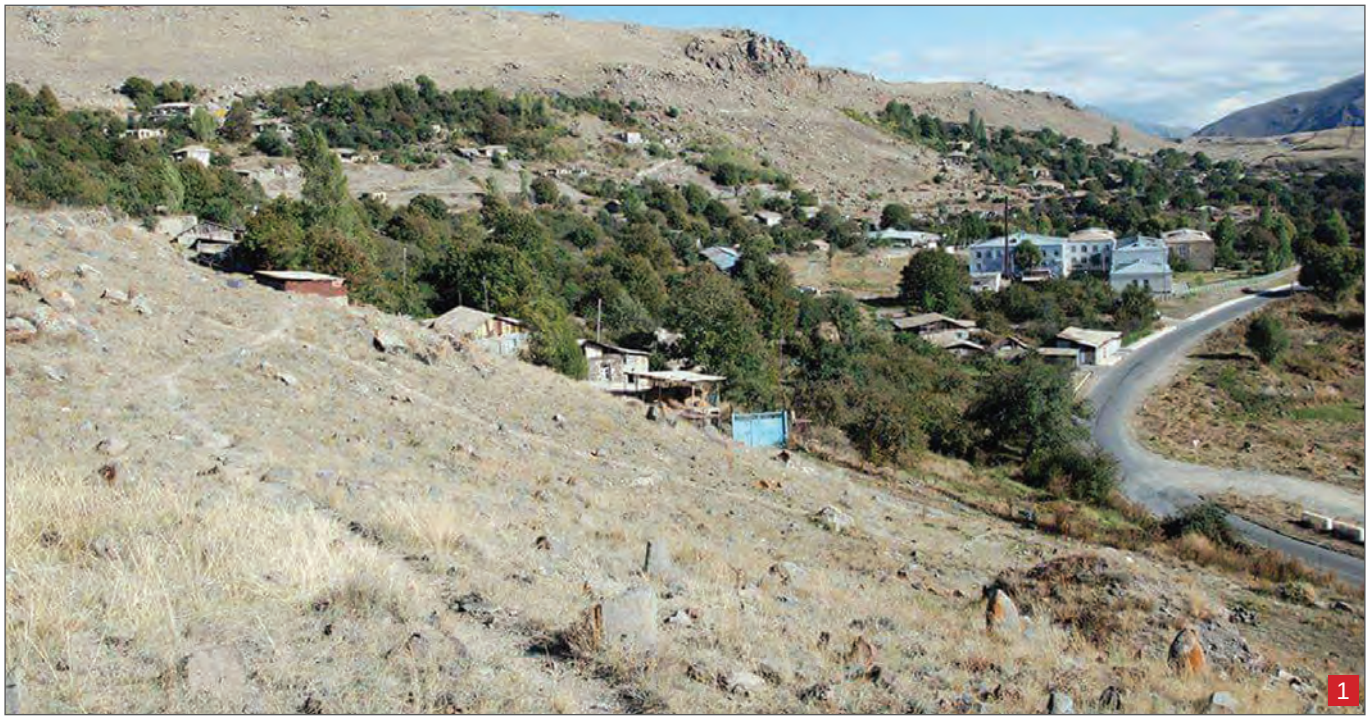
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:


1

© Bertramz, 2013

2

3

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2021

4

5

© Bertramz, 2013

From 2014 to 2022

Status: OBLITERATED

Dastagird Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Dastagird village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Dastakert village (Armenian)
ID: 168 [MC-575], 39.387743, 46.017207

Dastagird was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located northeast of Goshayurd mountain, on the bank of the Dastagird river. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 1590s.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers[2], cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 400 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Dastagird village, which had previously been part of the Sisian village commune[4] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[5] In April 1918, Dastagird village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[6] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, *358 Azerbaijanis* returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] In the 1950s, Armenians began to be resettled in the village in connection with the establishment of a copper-molybdenum plant. The village was transformed into an urban-type settlement.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Dastagird village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] and October 10, 1983[10] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.4 hectares, with tombstones primarily identified in the southern part. The tombstones located in the northern section were characterized by a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. Although the cemetery was not enclosed by a fence, it had clearly defined boundaries and was surrounded on three sides by dirt roads. It was found to be adjacent to cultivated fields on its southern and southwestern sides.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[11] (WorldView-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. Most of the tombstones visible in the 1983 Hexagon imagery had disappeared in the 2011 imagery. The remains of approximately 10 tombstones were identified in the southern and southwestern sections of the cemetery, near cultivated fields, and at the center, remnants of a structure resembling a mausoleum were observed.

A comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2011 and January 7, 2014[12] (Ikonos) provided a clearer understanding of the situation in the area. It was determined that a partially damaged tombstone in the northern section remained intact throughout this period.

A comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2014 and July 14, 2022[13] (Airbus) revealed that during this timeframe, the structure of the cemetery had been further damaged, and cultivated fields had expanded from the west into the cemetery area. This altered the structure of the cemetery and ultimately led to its obliteration.

GEOLOCATION:

Dastagird cemetery is situated 700 meters north-northwest of the village, on elevated terrain along the left bank of the Dastagird river. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1973 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and 1983 and determined its precise coordinates.

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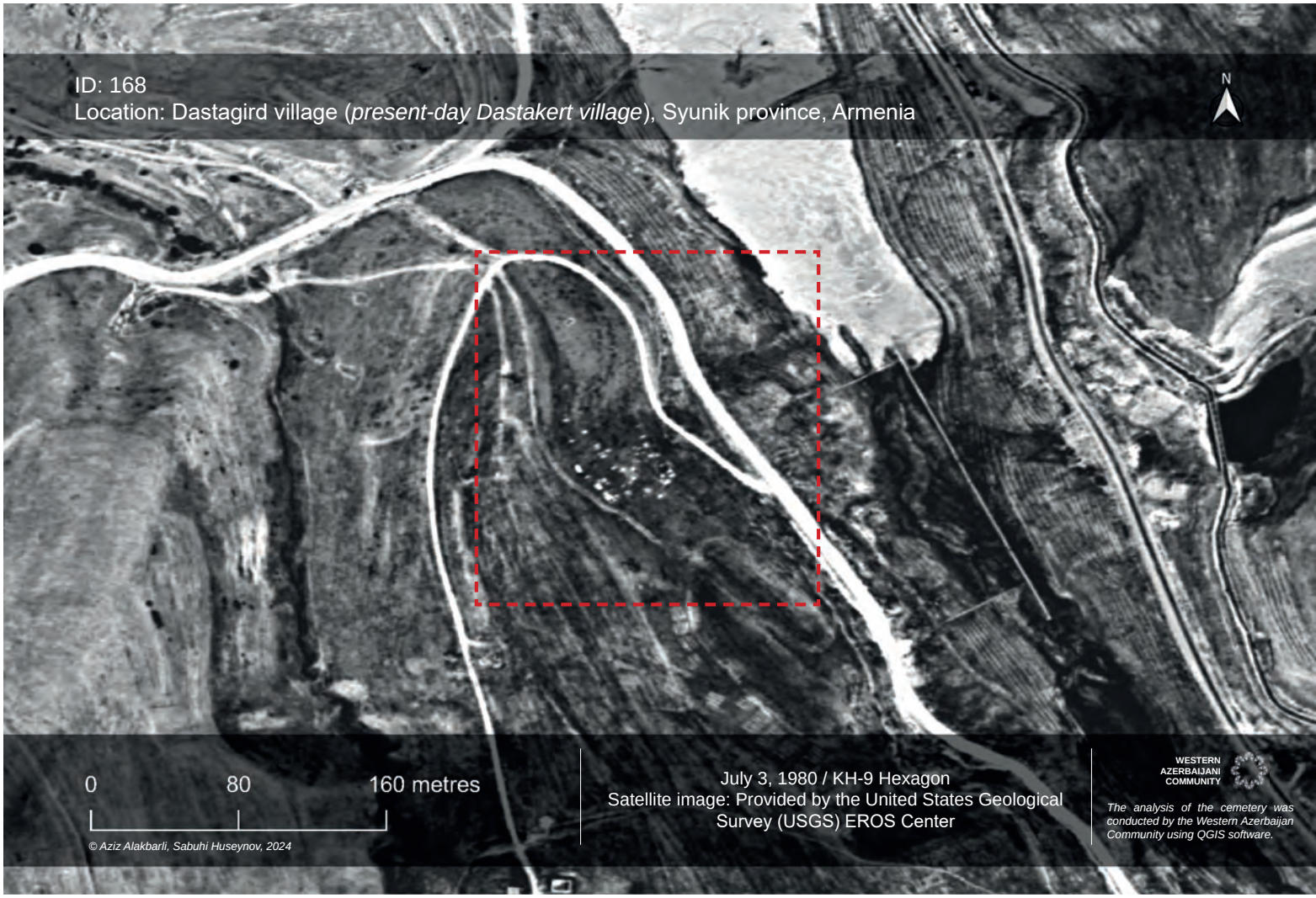
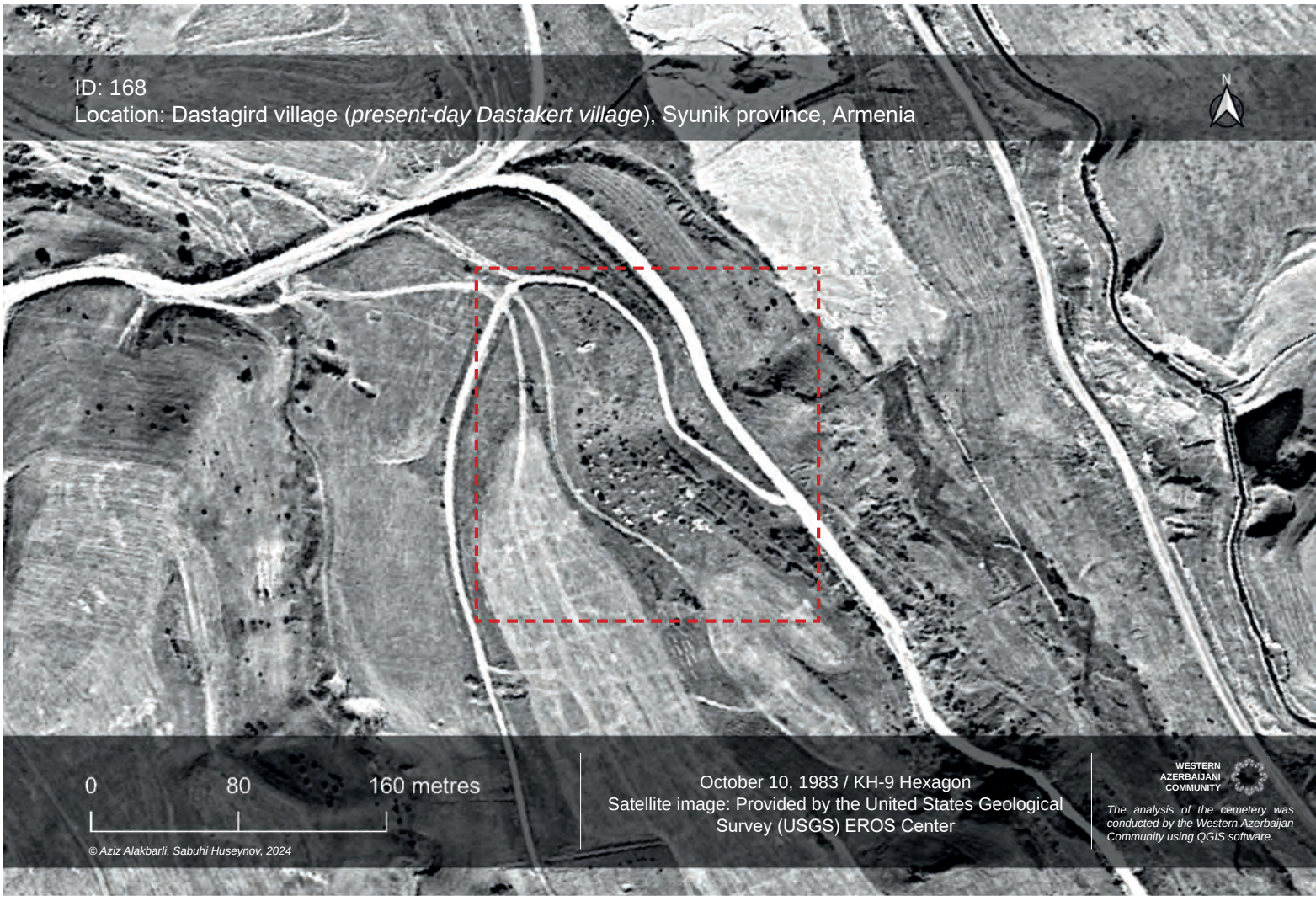
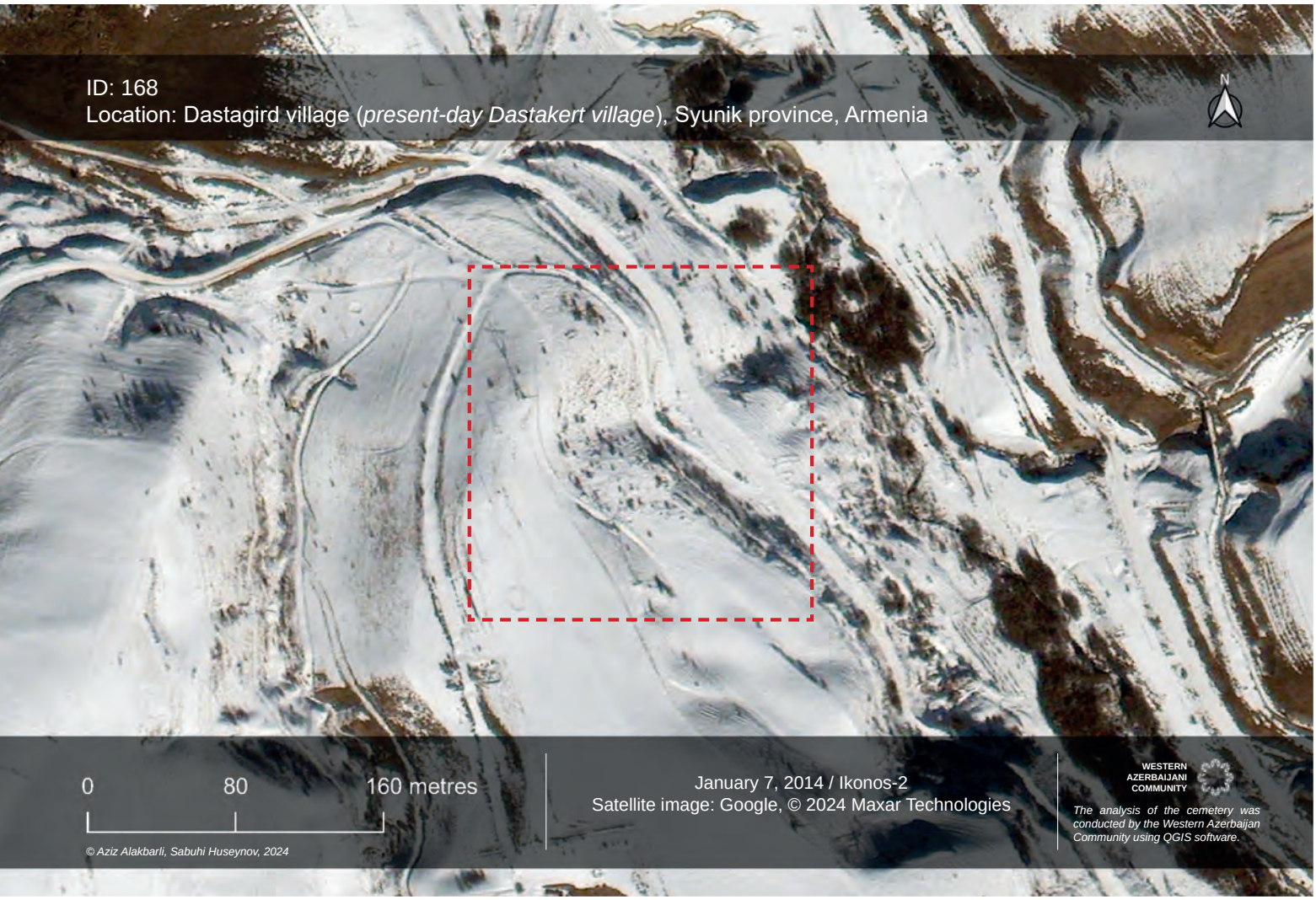
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 146-147.
8. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 106.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A005*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F19*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar.
12. *Ikonos-2*, January 07, 2014, Maxar.
13. July 14, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-21-V (Dastakert)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-21* (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975


ID: 168
Location: Dastagird village (*present-day Dastakert village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 168
Location: Dastagird village (*present-day Dastakert village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 168
Location: Dastagird village (*present-day Dastakert village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

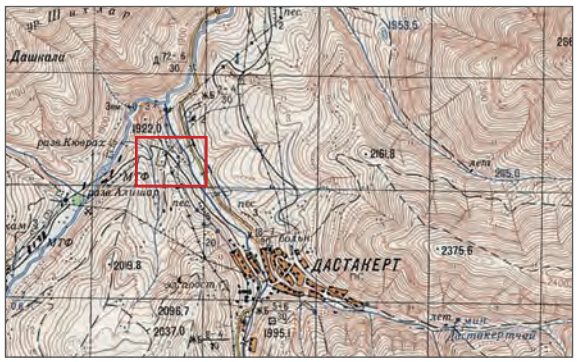

ID: 168
Location: Dastagird village (*present-day Dastakert village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 7, 2014 / Ikonos-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 168
Location: Dastagird village (*present-day Dastakert village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 14, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

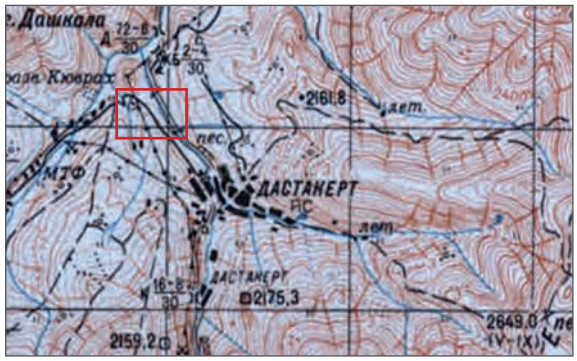
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Giziljig Village Old Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Giziljig village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Ishkhanasar village (Armenian)
ID: 068 [MC-173], 39.5705490, 46.0335852

Giziljig was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located north of the Aghudi village. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 18th century under the name *Gizilja*.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (referred to as *"Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 441 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Giziljig village, which had previously been part of the Angalavit village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In August 1918, Giziljig village came under Armenian attack, during which 27 residents were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 189 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 466 Azerbaijani residents of Giziljig village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Giziljig village was renamed Iskhanasar.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] and October 10, 1983[10] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.45 hectares, with a heterogeneous surface pattern. The presence of old tombstones sunken into the ground created such a view in the imagery. Although the cemetery area was not enclosed by a fence, its boundaries were determined based on topographic features.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 and August 31, 2011[11] (WorldView-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. Since the cleared land had not been repurposed for any other use, the authors concluded that the area had been cleared solely with the intention of erasing the cemetery. The 2022[12] imagery further confirms these observations.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on a high hill in the western part of Giziljig village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic

maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. *Nakhchïvan Sanjaghïnïn Mufässäl Däftäri. 9 Mähärräm 1140 (August 27, 1727),* research, notes, and commentary by Husamaddin Karamanli (ed.); translation by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamaddin Mammadov (Karamanli) (Baku: Elm, 2001), 156.
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10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716A01*8, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. July 14, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-A (*Sisian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-21* (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975

ID: 068
Location: Giziljig village (*present-day Ishkhanasar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 068
Location: Giziljig village (*present-day Ishkhanasar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

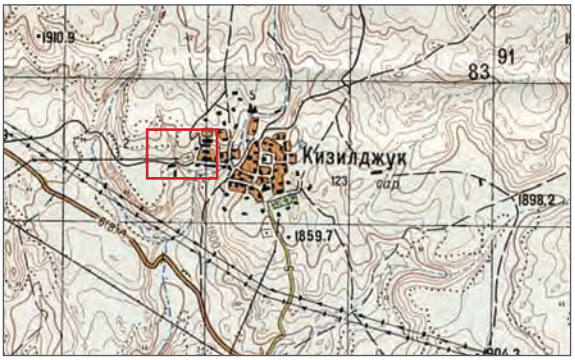
ID: 068
Location: Giziljig village (present-day Ishkhanasar village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 068
Location: Giziljig village (present-day Ishkhanasar village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 14, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Giziljig Village New Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Giziljig village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Ishkhanasar village (Armenian)
ID: 069 [MC-044], 39.566091, 46.039825

Giziljig was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located north of the Aghudi village. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 18th century under the name *Gizilja*.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (referred to as *"Muslims" or "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 441 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Giziljig village, which had previously been part of the Angalavit village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In August 1918, Giziljig village came under Armenian attack, during which 27 residents were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 189 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, 466 Azerbaijani residents of Giziljig village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Giziljig village was renamed Iskhanasar.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) and October 10, 1983[10] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.55 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and August 31, 2011[11] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The latter imagery revealed that the tombstones had been severely damaged, many had been displaced from their original positions, and visible gaps had emerged across the site. According to the results of the analysis, the cemetery was completely destroyed between 1989 and 2011.

To better assess the extent of the damage, the authors also analyzed photographs of the cemetery taken in 2022 by blogger G. Mattu. The analysis of these photographs revealed that all tombstones within the cemetery had been toppled, many had been broken, and numerous headstones had disappeared altogether. The photographic evidence confirmed the findings obtained through satellite imagery analysis regarding the destruction of the cemetery (Images Nos. 1–6). The tombstones had been toppled en masse, shattered, and the vast majority were no longer present at the site. It is unlikely that the tombstones fell naturally, as the headstones of many tomb structures had been removed from the site. These facts confirm that the area was subjected to severe external interference, namely acts of vandalism.

Thus, it was established that the structural integrity of the cemetery had been severely compromised. The fallen headstones not only destroyed the visual appearance of the tomb structures but also undermined the intrinsic value of the graves themselves.

The destruction of the tombstones rendered them completely unusable, with their fragments scattered across the ground, ultimately resulting in the total obliteration of the cemetery.[12]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 50 meters south of Giziljig village. This site is marked on Soviet military-topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 53
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. "Zängäzur khäsäräti," *Azärbayjan* qäzeti, №36, november 11, 1918.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 146-147.
7. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 212-213.
8. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 49.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F19*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *WorldView-3*, October 22, 2023, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-21-A (*Sisian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-21* (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975

ID: 069
Location: Giziljig village (*present-day Ishkhanasar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

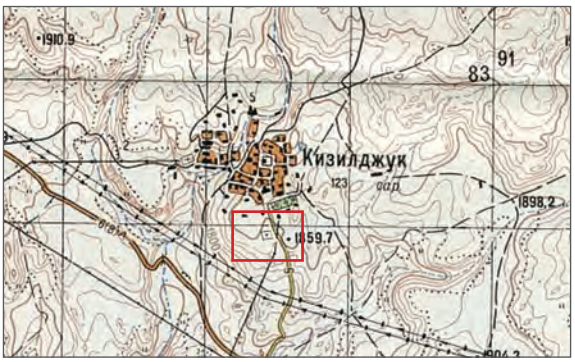
ID: 069
Location: Giziljig village (*present-day Ishkhanasar village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 069
Location: Giziljig village (present-day Ishkhanasar village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 22, 2023 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2022

From 1989 to 2009

Status: OBLITERATED

Jomardli Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Jomardli village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Tanahat village (Armenian)
ID: 189 [MC-573-MC-574], 39.4339862, 45.9166597 / 39.4344700, 45.91775153

Jomardli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located in a highland area between the Dibaghli and Dubaghli mountains. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as an encampment known as Valadan-i Jomard as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 405 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Jomardli village, which had previously been part of the Sisian village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the summer of 1918, Jomardli village came under Armenian attack, during which 100 villagers were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 77 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Jomardli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Jomardli village was renamed Tanahat.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] and October 10, 1983[10] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that two cemeteries were identified in the western part of Jomardli village: the new cemetery covering an area of 0.25 hectares, and the old cemetery covering 0.3 hectares. While tombstones could be identified in the new cemetery, the old cemetery was characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface. Both cemeteries were situated on high hills, and their boundaries were defined by the area's topographic features.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1983 and July 21, 2009[11] (WorldView-1) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2009. Many of the tombstones identified in the 1980 and 1983 imagery were no longer visible in the 2009 imagery. The majority of approximately 20 tombstones identified in the imagery appeared to have been destroyed, with many of the stones displaced from their original orientation. The analysis confirmed that severe destruction and acts of vandalism occurred in the new cemetery area between 1989 and 2009.

At an unspecified time between 2009 and 2016[12], the old cemetery was found to have been completely obliterated, with all tombstones either removed or lost beneath vegetation.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2016 and 2022[13] indicates that the condition of the cemetery remained unchanged.

Thus, it was established that in the new cemetery, during the period between 1989 and 2009, tombstones were broken, rendered completely unusable, and their fragments scattered across the ground, ultimately resulting in the complete obliteration of the cemetery.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located to the northwest of Jomardli village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and 1983 and determined its precise coordinates

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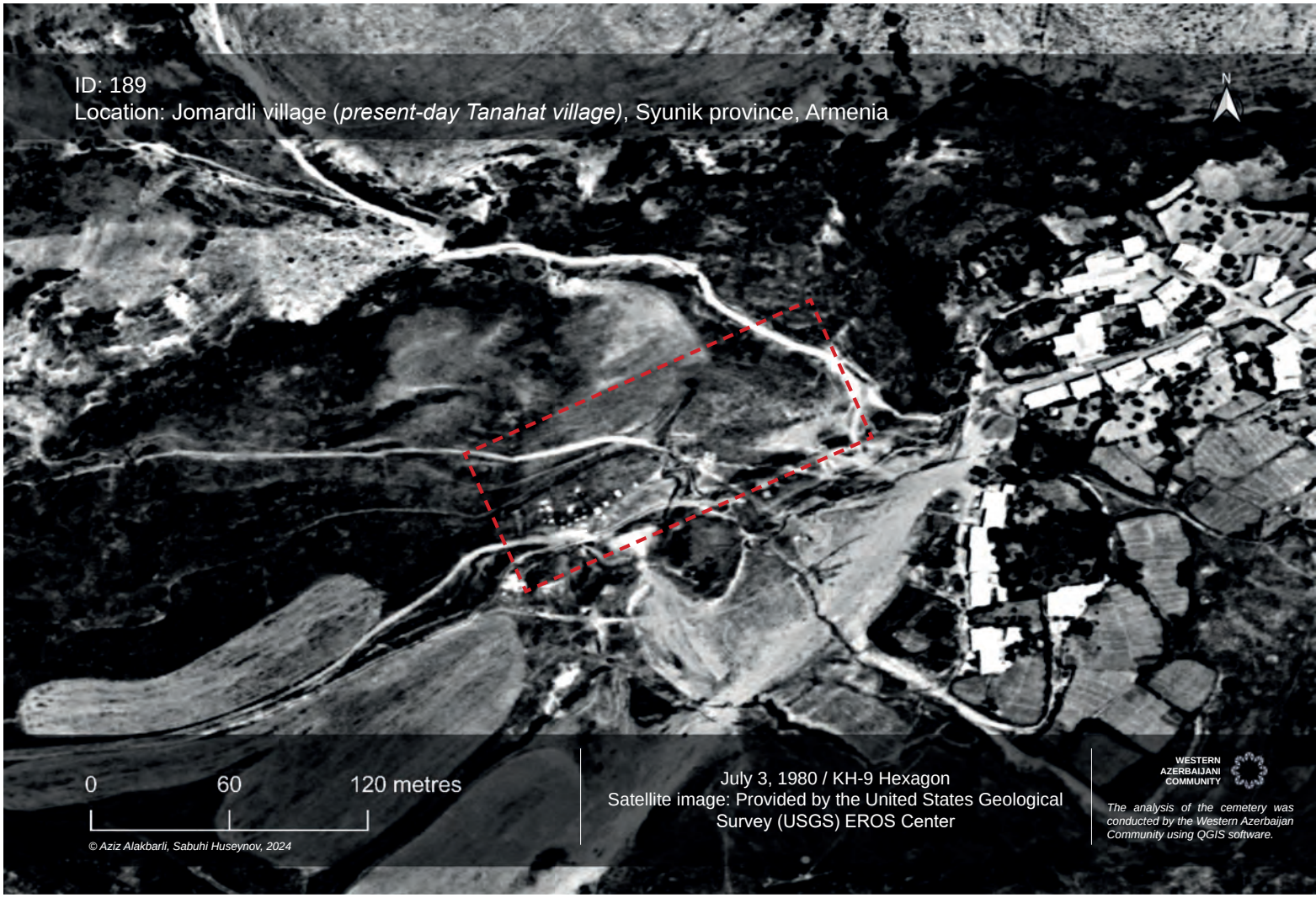
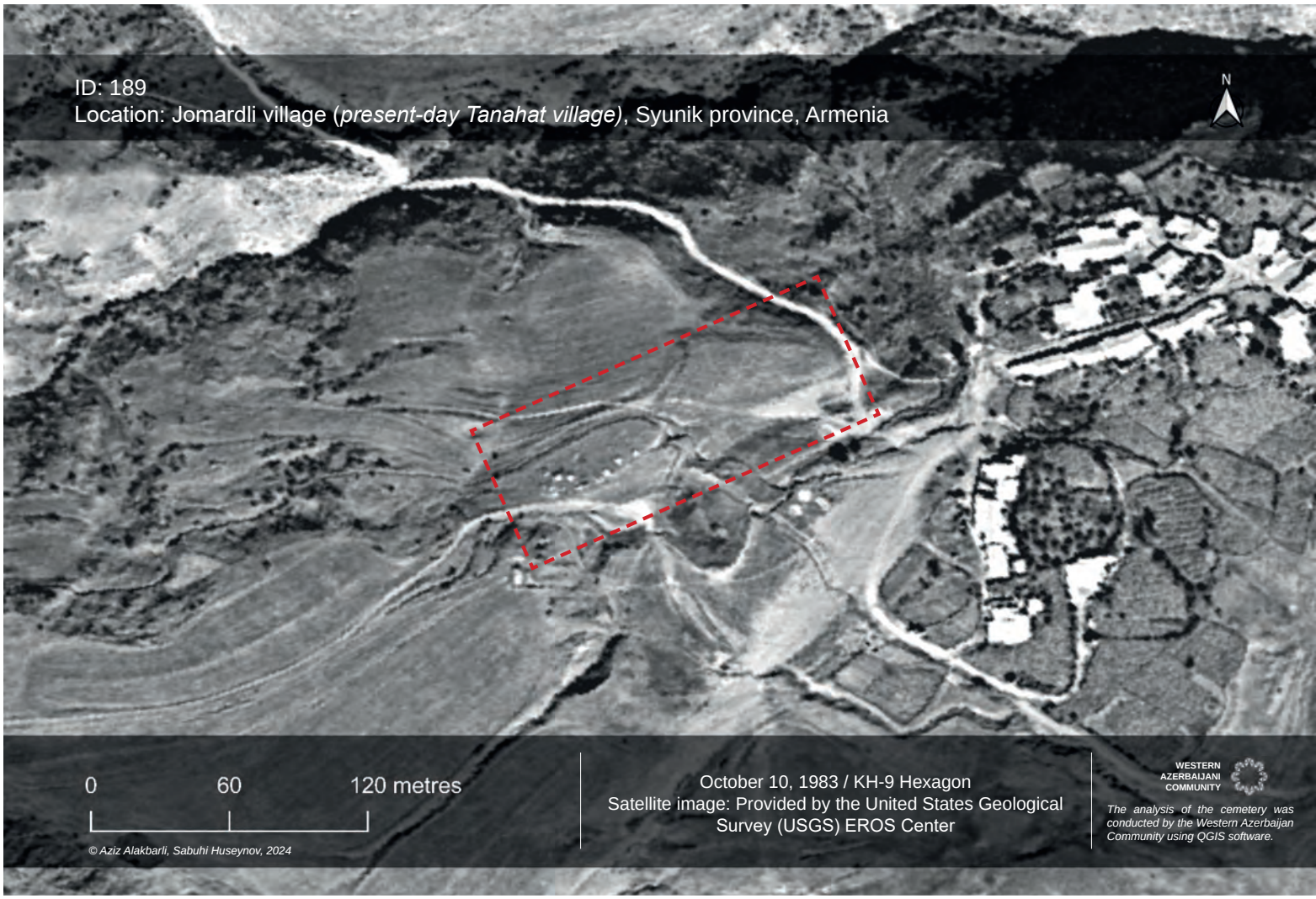
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 145-147.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 252.
8. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A005*, July 3, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F19*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-1*, Feburary 24, 2009, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
12. *WorldView-1*, July 21, 2016, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. July 14, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-20-G* (*Brnakot*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 189
Location: Jomardli village (*present-day Tanahat village)*, Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.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Location: Jomardli village (*present-day Tanahat village)*, Syunik province, Armenia
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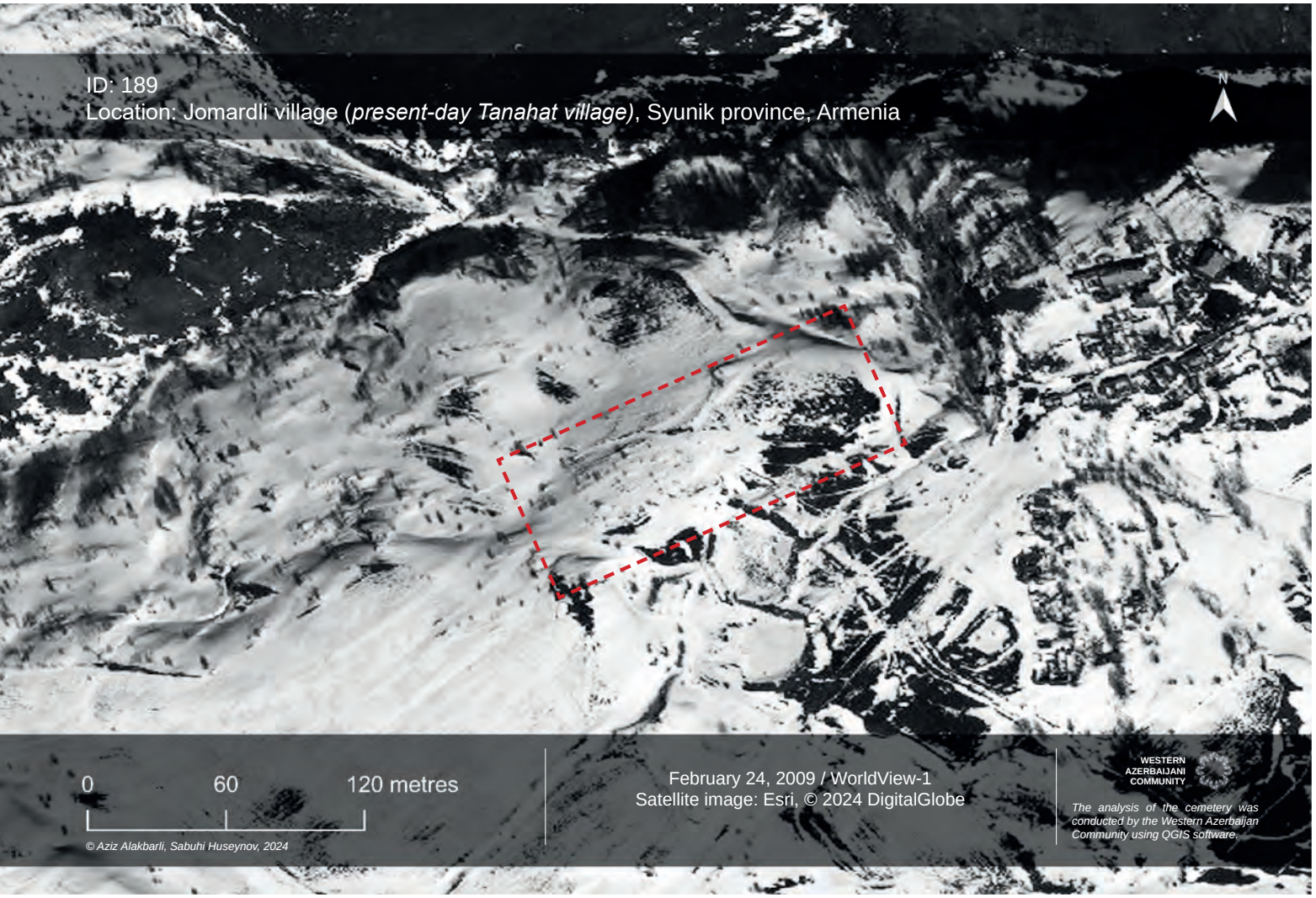
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 189
Location: Jomardli village (*present-day Tanahat village*), Syunik province, Armenia
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120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 24, 2009 / WorldView-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 189
Location: Jomardli village (*present-day Tanahat village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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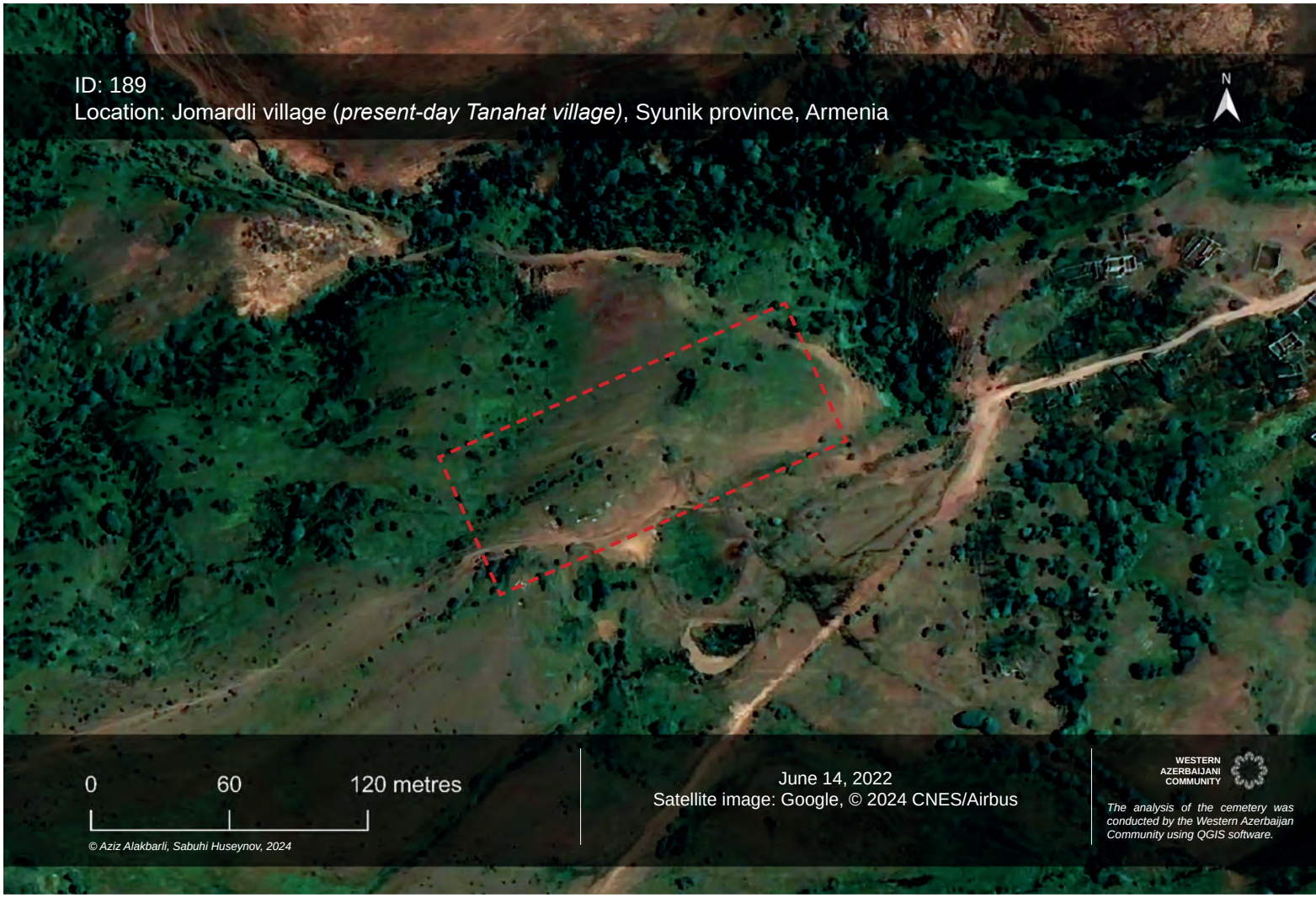
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 21, 2016 / WorldView-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 189
Location: Jomardli village (*present-day Tanahat village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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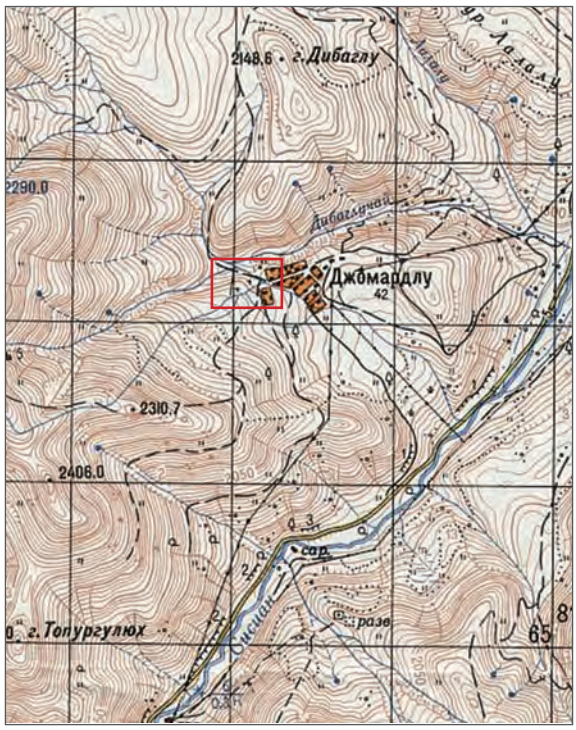
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 14, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2009

Status: OBLITERATED

Murghuz Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Murghuz village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Tsghuni village (Armenian)
ID: 086 [MC-143], 39.3667527, 45.9889217

Murghuz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located at the foot of the Girkhlar shrine, at the confluence of the Chichakli and Ayrichay rivers. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the 1590s, under the name Muxris.[1] Other recorded variants of the name include Mahrus, Murgus, and Murkhuz. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 190 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Murghuz village, which had previously been part of the Sisian village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the summer of 1918, Murghuz village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 101 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Murghuz village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Murghuz village was renamed Tsghuni.[8]

The village had an ancient cemetery rich in ram-shaped tombstones. Murghuz village was surrounded on all sides by pirs (sacred site of spiritual veneration): Girkhlar Pir, Dashgala Pir, Nalbend Pir, and Takja Pir.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] and October 10, 1983[11] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.6 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. The cemetery area was enclosed by a fence, and the tombstones were primarily identified in the western part of the site. A small dirt road passed through the center of the cemetery. In the southern and southeastern parts of the area, tombstones were identified on a heterogeneous surface. This may be attributed to the presence of sunken, older graves in those sections.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and February 24, 2009[12] (WorldView-1) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was completely destroyed at some point between 1989 and 2009.

A comparative analysis of the satellite imagery dated 2009 and July 14, 2022[13] (CNES/Airbus) revealed that earthmoving operations had been carried out in the area and that heavy machinery used the cemetery site to plow the surrounding farmland. This indicates a change in the designated use of the area and its repurposing for other uses. These processes resulted in the loss of the cemetery's cultural heritage value and its complete obliteration. Thus, the destruction and acts of vandalism continued from 1989 until 2009, after which the tombstones were completely obliterated, and the land was repurposed for other uses.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery of Murghuz village is located 150 meters west of the left bank of the Ayrichay river, on the right side of the road leading to Sofulu village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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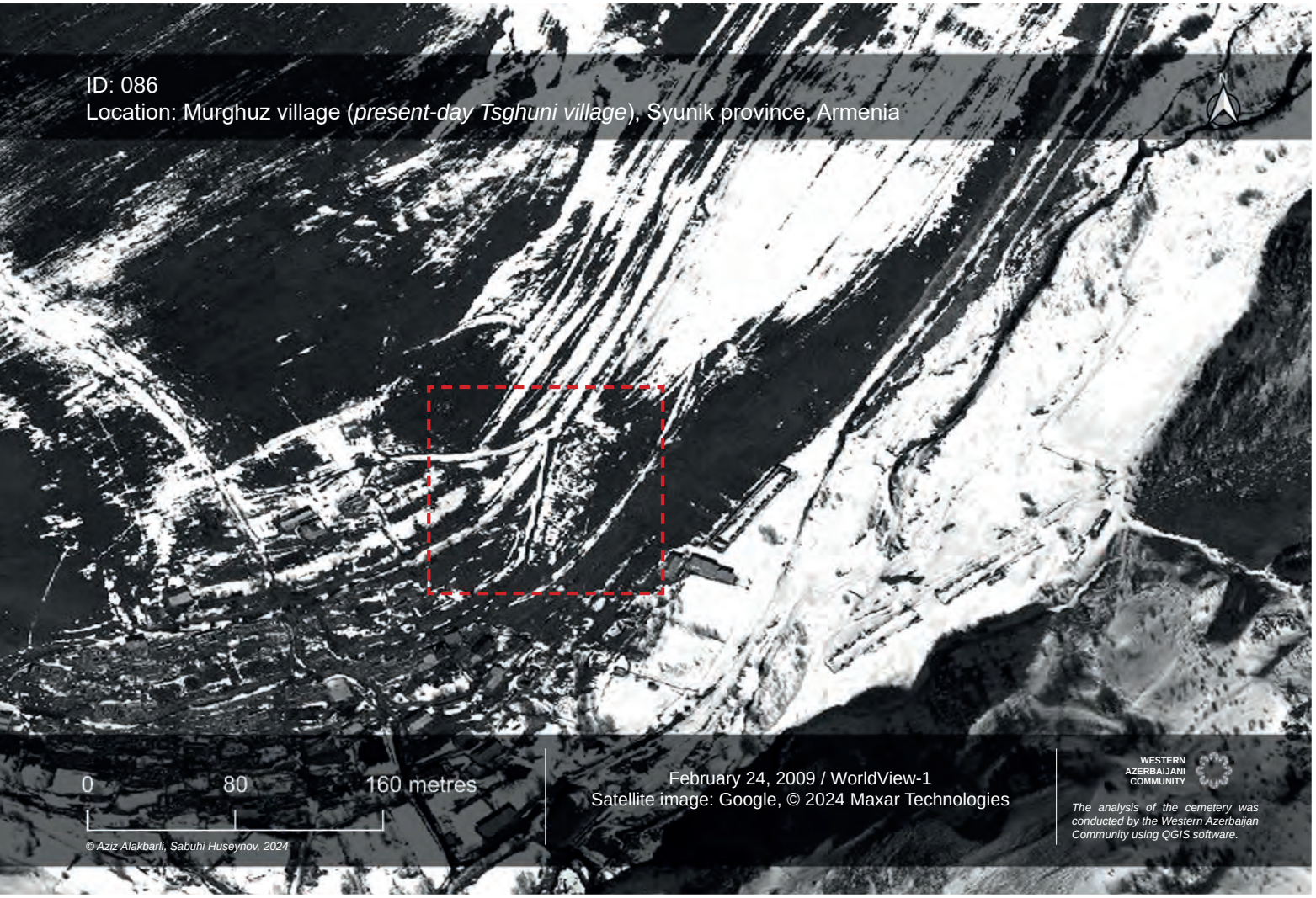
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *WorldView-1*, February 24, 2009, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. July 14, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-20-G (*Brnakot*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.

ID: 086
Location: Murghuz village (*present-day Tsghuni village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 086
Location: Murghuz village (*present-day Tsghuni village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 086
Location: Murghuz village (present-day Tsghuni village), Syunik province, Armenia
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© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 24, 2009 / WorldView-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 086
Location: Murghuz village (present-day Tsghuni village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 14, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Sofulu Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Sofulu village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Nzhdeh village (Armenian)
ID: 085 [MC-146], 39.377669, 45.997765

Sofulu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located between Dastagird and Murghuz villages, on the left bank of the Ayrichay river. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 970 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Sofulu village, which had previously been part of the Sisian village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the summer of 1918, Sofulu village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1922, 149 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, over 1,124 Azerbaijani residents of Sofulu village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Sofulu village was renamed Nzhde.[8]

In the Sofulu village cemetery, the monumental tomb and shrine of Molla Gayib (Geyib) was located.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] and October 10, 1983[11] (*at right*) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1 hectare, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 1, 2011[12] (WorldView-2) (*at right, bottom*) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2011. In the 2022[13] (CNES/Airbus) satellite imagery, no tombstones could be observed in the cemetery area.

GEOLOCATION:

The Sofulu village cemetery is located on the left bank of the Ayrichay river, on the right side of the road leading from

Shikhlar village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and 1983 and determined its precise coordinates.

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4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. Kamran Ismayilov, *Zängäzurda Azärbayjan xalqïna qarshï soyqïrïmï (1918-1920)* (Baku: Elm, 2017), 19.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 146-147.
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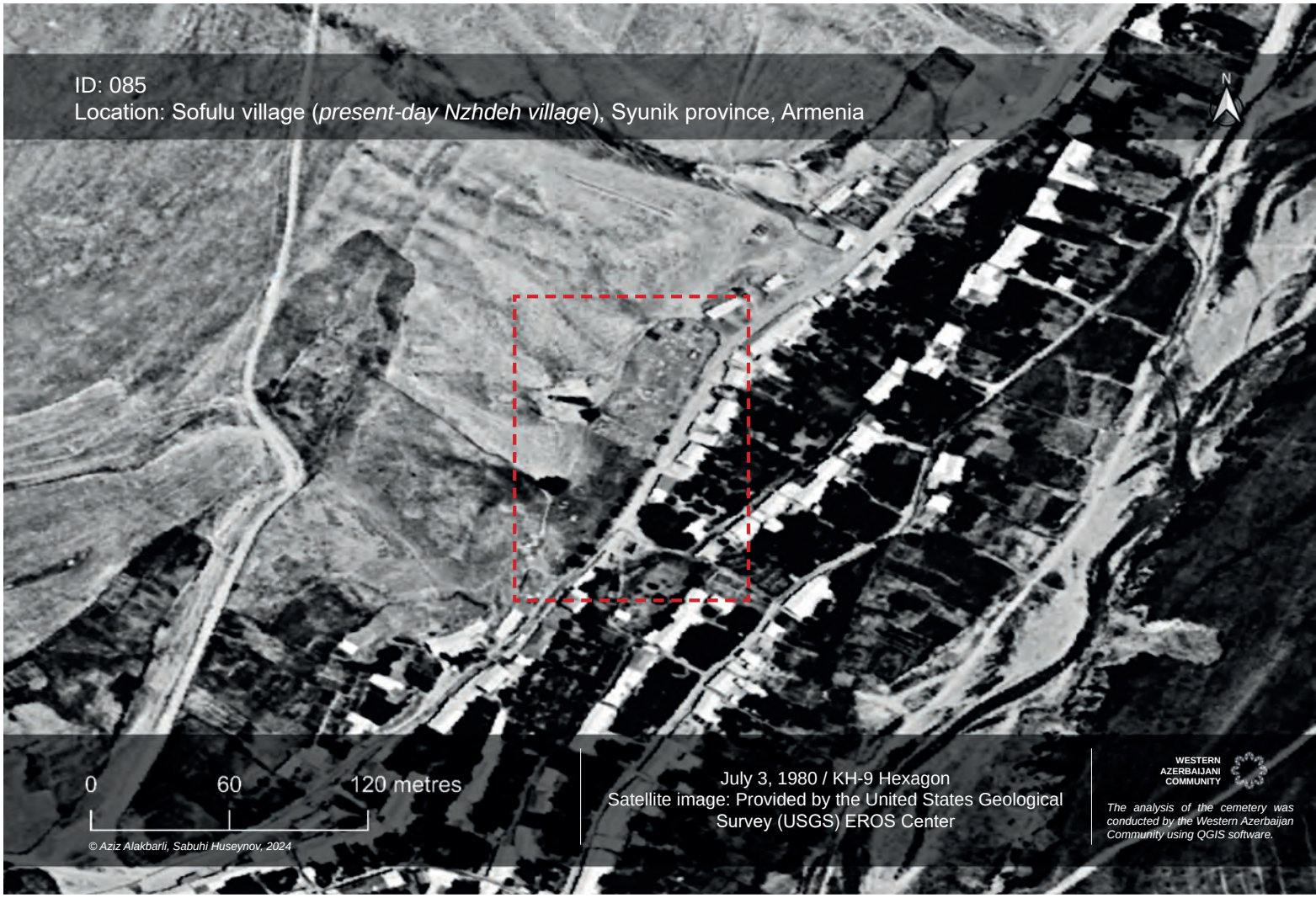
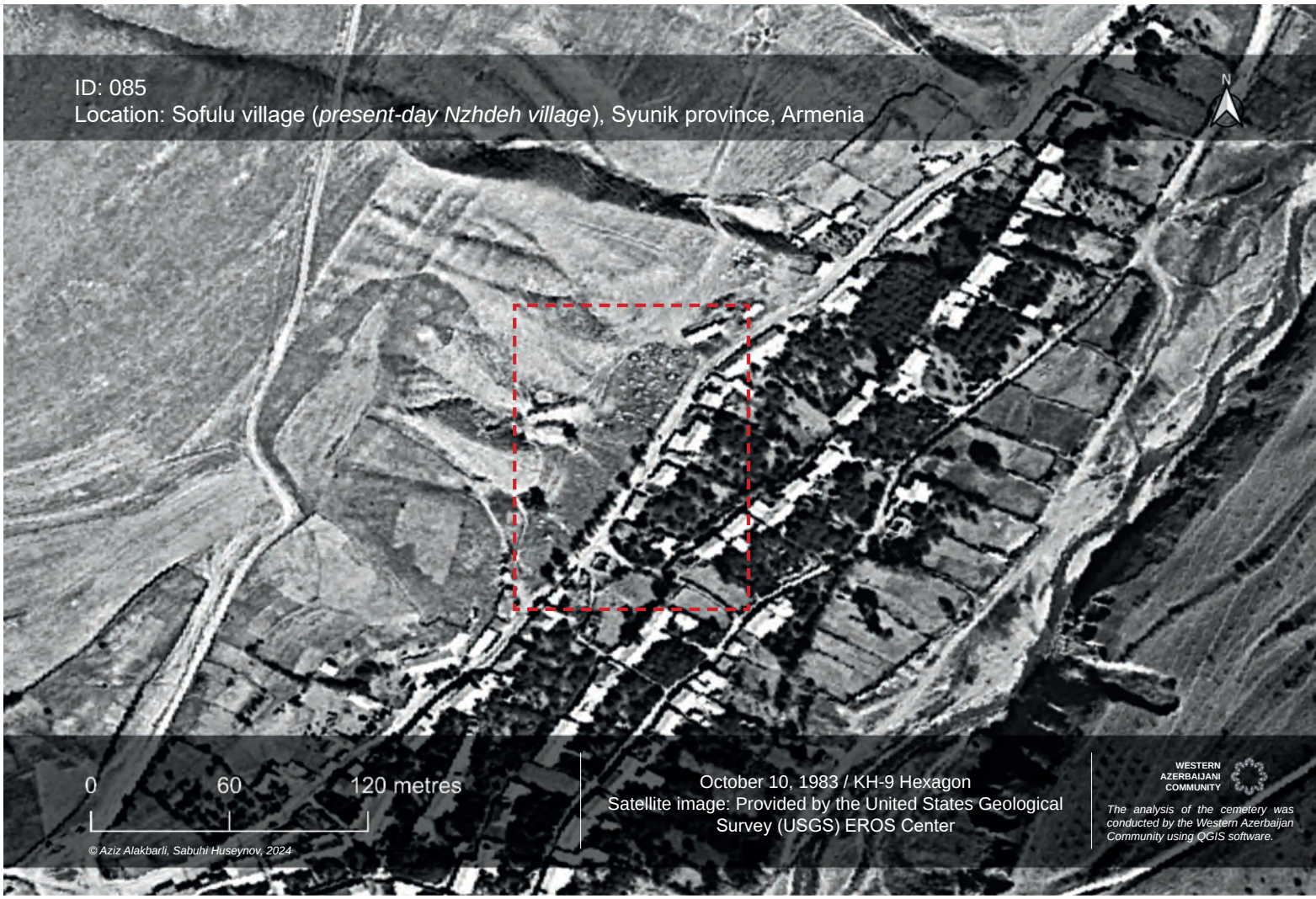
9. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 133.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. July 14, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-20-G (*Brnakot*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 085
Location: Sofulu village (*present-day Nzhdeh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 085
Location: Sofulu village (*present-day Nzhdeh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
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120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 085
Location: Sofulu village (*present-day Nzhdeh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 085
Location: Sofulu village (*present-day Nzhdeh village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 14, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 1989 to 2006

Status: DESTROYED

Shaki Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Shaki (Shäki) village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Shaki village (Armenian)
ID: 066 [MC-043], 39.5604932, 46.0039563

Shaki was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Bazarchay river, near the city of Garakilsa. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the 1590s, under the name Shaki.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,584 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Shaki village, which had previously been part of the Angalavit village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In August 1918, Shaki village came under Armenian attack, during which 140 men, 160 women, and 200 children were killed. The survivors were forced to leave, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1922, 282 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shaki village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

In Shaki village, there were two cemeteries belonging to Azerbaijanis. One was a Shia cemetery located in an area known as "Kahi side," and the other was a Sunni cemetery situated in a location referred to as "Gumlug." Later, this sectarian division was abolished, and all deceased individuals from the village began to be buried in a single cemetery.[7] The Armenian scholar S. Barkhudaryants, who studied the history of the village cemetery, discovered an epigraphic inscription in Arabic script among the ancient graves in the area. Mashadikhanim Nemat, who read the inscription, noted that the tombstone dates back to the 14th century.[8] The mausoleum of Sayyid Mir Huseyn Agha was located in the Shaki village cemetery.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[9] and July 3, 1980[10] (*at right*) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of **4 hectares**, with tombstones and a mausoleum identified in the northern part.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and December 6, 2006[11] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the findings of the analysis, the cemetery suffered extensive destruction between 1989 and 2006. By that time, the western section had been completely obliterated. In the eastern section, the mausoleum visible in earlier Hexagon satellite imagery was found to have already been destroyed.

A comparative analysis of the 2006 and August 31, 2011[12] (WorldView-2) satellite imagery revealed that all tombstones in the southwestern section of the cemetery, located on the left side of the road, had been completely destroyed. The 2011 and 2022[13] (CNES/Airbus) satellite imagery indicated that the situation in the area remained stable during this period.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the south of the village, on the slope of a hill, on both the right and left sides of the road leading to Garakilsa city. This site is marked on two Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000[14] and 1:100,000 scales[15]). Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates..

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 210.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 53.
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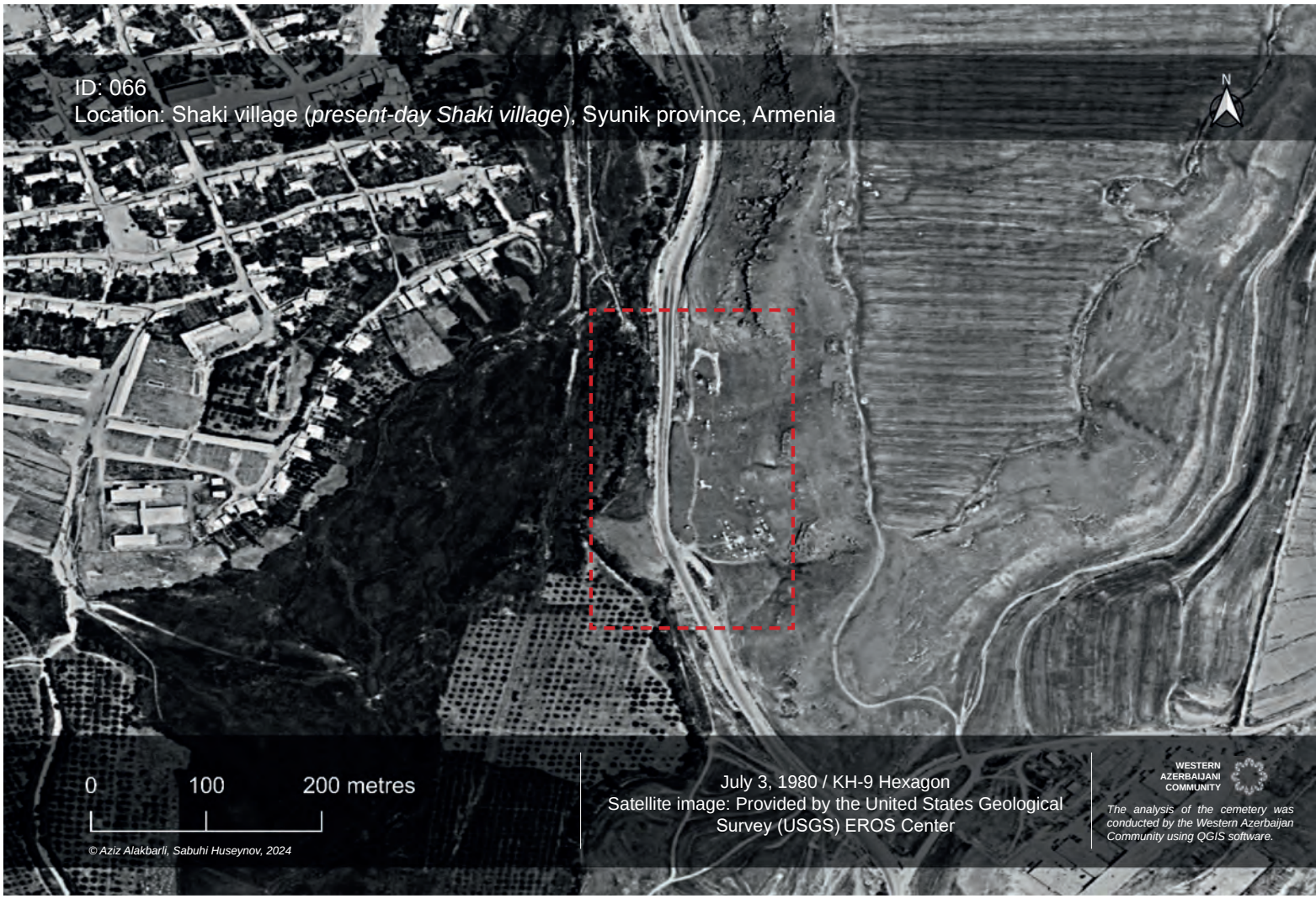
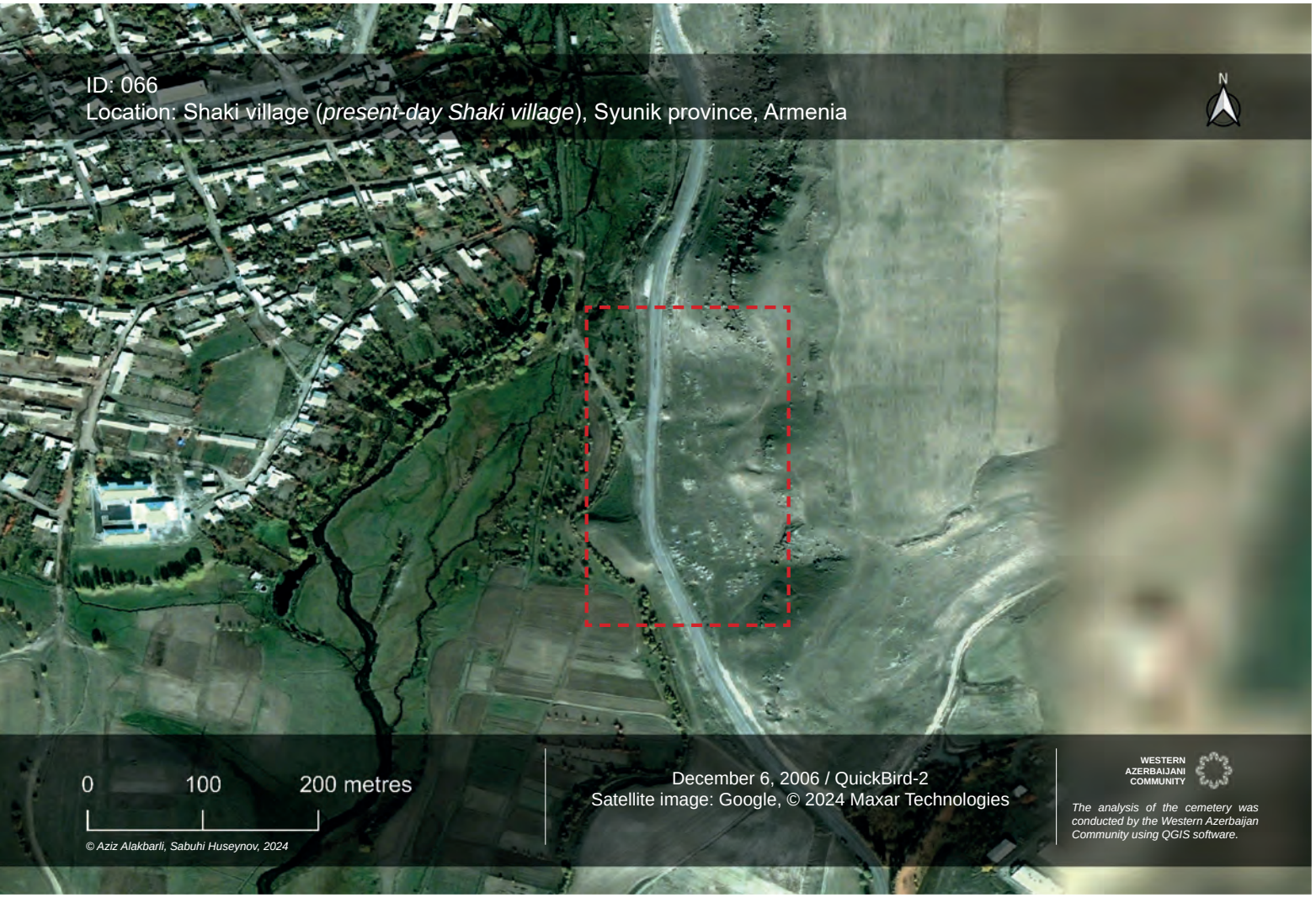
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 146-147.
7. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 134.
8. Meshadikhanum Neimat, *Korpus epigraficheskikh pamiatnikov Azerbaidzhana, vol. 3, Arabo-perso-turkoiazychnye nadpisi Nakhchyvanskoi Avtonomnoi Respubliki (XII – nachala XX veka)* (Baku: XXI – Yeni Neshrler Evi, 2001), 65.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100170F017*, July 29, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *Quick Bird-2*, December 06, 2006, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. October 22, 2023, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-A (*Sisian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21 (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 066
Location: Shaki village (*present-day Shaki village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 066
Location: Shaki village (*present-day Shaki village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 066
Location: Shaki village (*present-day Shaki village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
December 6, 2006 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

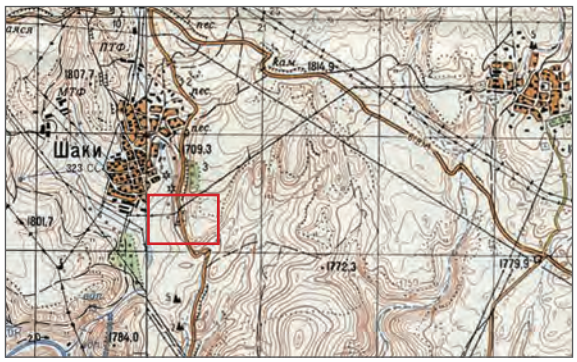
ID: 066
Location: Shaki village (*present-day Shaki village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 066
Location: Shaki village (*present-day Shaki village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 22, 2023 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

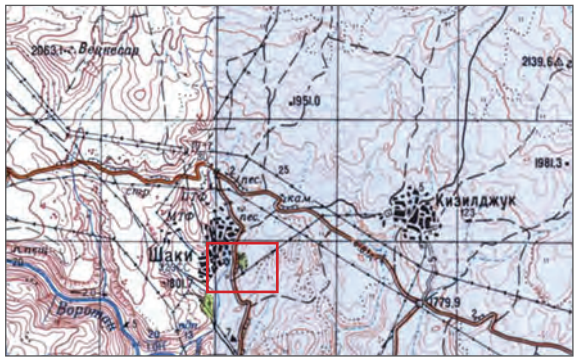
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2011

Status: DESTROYED

Shikhlar Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Shikhlar village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Torunik village (Armenian)
ID: 084 [MC-108], 39.414528, 46.017603

Shikhlar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the right bank of the Ayrichay river. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the 1590s, under the name Sheykhlar.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 476 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Shikhlar village, which had previously been part of the Sisian village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In 1918, Shikhlar village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, after 1922, 326 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated March 2, 1940, Shikhlar village was renamed Gizil Shafag.[7]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shikhlar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, Shikhlar village was renamed Torunik.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] and October 10, 1983[11] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.72 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[12] (WorldView-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2011.

An analysis of the 2011 and 2014[13] (Ikonos-2) satellite imagery identified the shadows of approximately 10 tombstones within the cemetery. By 2014, the number of intact tombstones in the area was found to have declined.

A video recording dated May 30, 2014, confirmed the destruction previously identified in satellite imagery. Tombstones in the area were found to have been toppled en masse, shattered, and the vast majority were no longer present. The likelihood that the tombstones fell naturally is low, as a large number of headstones had been removed from the site altogether. These facts confirm that the area was subjected to severe external interference, namely acts of vandalism. The analysis determined that, except for 4 to 5 tombstones, the entire cemetery had been severely vandalized and destroyed.

Thus, the cemetery suffered partial destruction up to 2011 and was almost entirely obliterated by 2014.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery of Shikhlar village is located to the north of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and 1983 and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri, comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlı) (Baku: Elm, 1996),* 146.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 211.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 53.
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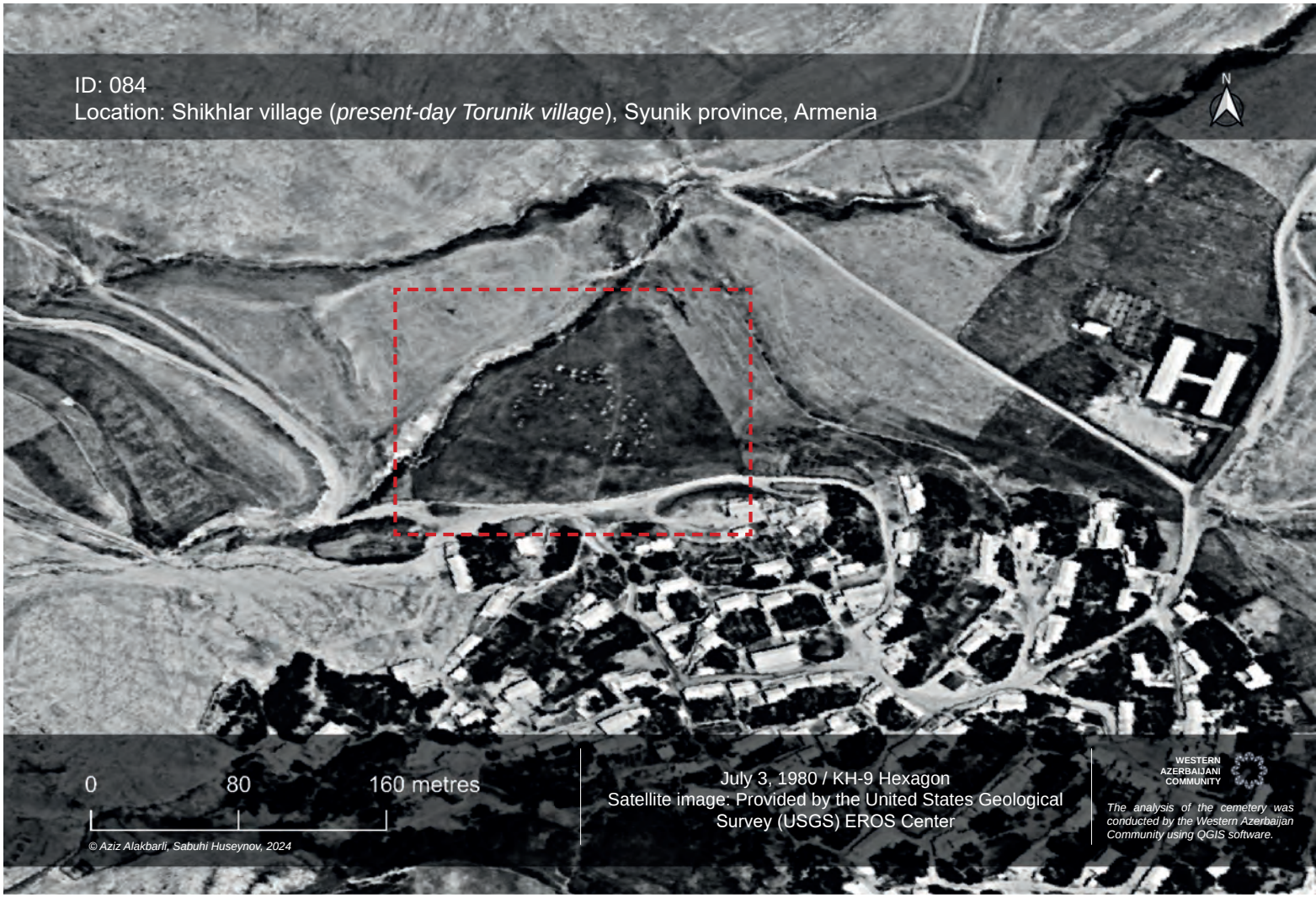
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F019*, October 10, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *WordlView-2,* August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. *Ikonos-2,* January 07, 2014, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-V (*Дастакерт*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21 (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 084
Location: Shikhlar village (*present-day Torunik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 084
Location: Shikhlar village (*present-day Torunik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 10, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

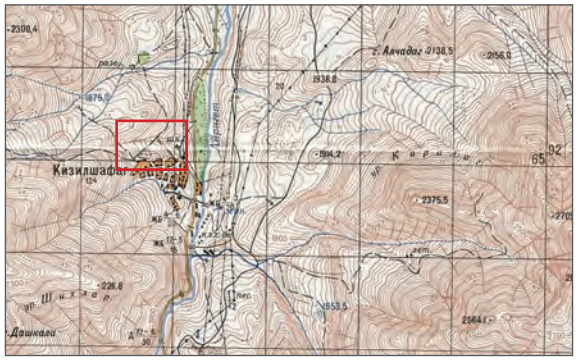
ID: 084
Location: Shikhlar village (*present-day Torunik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 084
Location: Shikhlar village (*present-day Torunik village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 7, 2014 / Ikonos-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

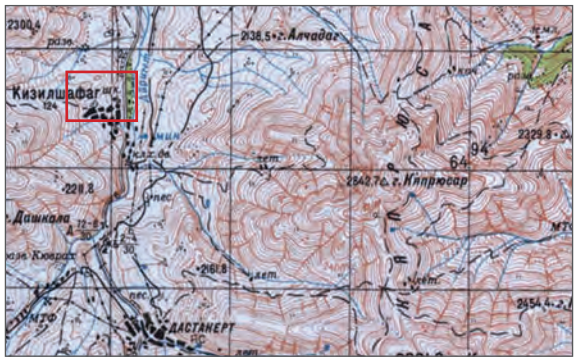
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1989 to 1992

Status: OBLITERATED

Urud Village Medieval Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Urud village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vorotnavan village (Armenian)
ID: 067 [MC-019], 39.484264, 46.140921

Urud was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the bank of the Bazarchay river. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the 15th century, under the name Urud.[1] It was one of the oldest villages in the region. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 409 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Urud village, previously part of the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] On September 28, 1918, Urud village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 340 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated July 3, 1968, Urud village was renamed Vorotan.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Urud village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated June 9, 2017, Urud village was renamed Vorotnavan.[7]

The first information on the medieval cemetery of Urud village in academic literature was provided by ethnographer Alasgar Alakbarov. The comprehensive study of the cemetery is associated with Mashadikhanim Nematova, a prominent Azerbaijani scholar of epigraphy. In 1961, M. Nematova studied the medieval Urud cemetery and was able to document 13 chest-shaped tombstones and 4 ram-shaped tombstones.[8] The Armenian scholar Aleksandr Khachatryan conducted research at the Urud cemetery between 1977 and 1979 and, in his 1987 publication, presented several epigraphic monuments from the cemetery.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[10] and July 3, 1980[11] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2.135 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous surface pattern.

To assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 31, 2011[12] (WorldView-2) revealed that the cemetery was completely obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2011. In 2006, during a visit to the village, former resident Musa Urud observed that the cemetery had already been obliterated long before.[13]

To narrow down the timeframe and determine the approximate period of destruction, the authors analyzed changes in vegetation cover based on NDVI values from Landsat-5 satellite imagery dated 1989–2011. This analysis indicated a sharp decline in vegetation between 1990 and 1992, suggesting the occurrence of events that hindered vegetation growth during that period. This may have resulted from the destruction of the cemetery and the subsequent earthmoving operations carried out on the site.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the southwestern part of the village, near the so-called Badr cliff. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1973 and 1980 and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
4. *"O razgrome armyanami musul'manskogo seleniya Agudi Zangezurskogo uezda," ARDA, f. 1061, op. 1, d. 66, ll. 5–6*; "Korrespondentsiya russkikh ofitserov v redaktsiyu gazety *Znamya truda* ob iskazhennom osveshchenii gazetoy *Azerbaydzhan* faktov, svyazannykh s deyatel'nost'yu Andranika, General Andranik i Turko, Azerbaydzhan, 12 dekabrya 1918 g., g. Tiflis," in *Andranik Ozanian: Dokumenty i materialy*, *Vestnik arkhivov Armenii* 1 (89)–2 (90) (Erevan: Banber Ayastani Arxivneri, 1991), 321.; NAA, f. 370, op. 2, d 11, ll. 34–38.
5. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 146-147.
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11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
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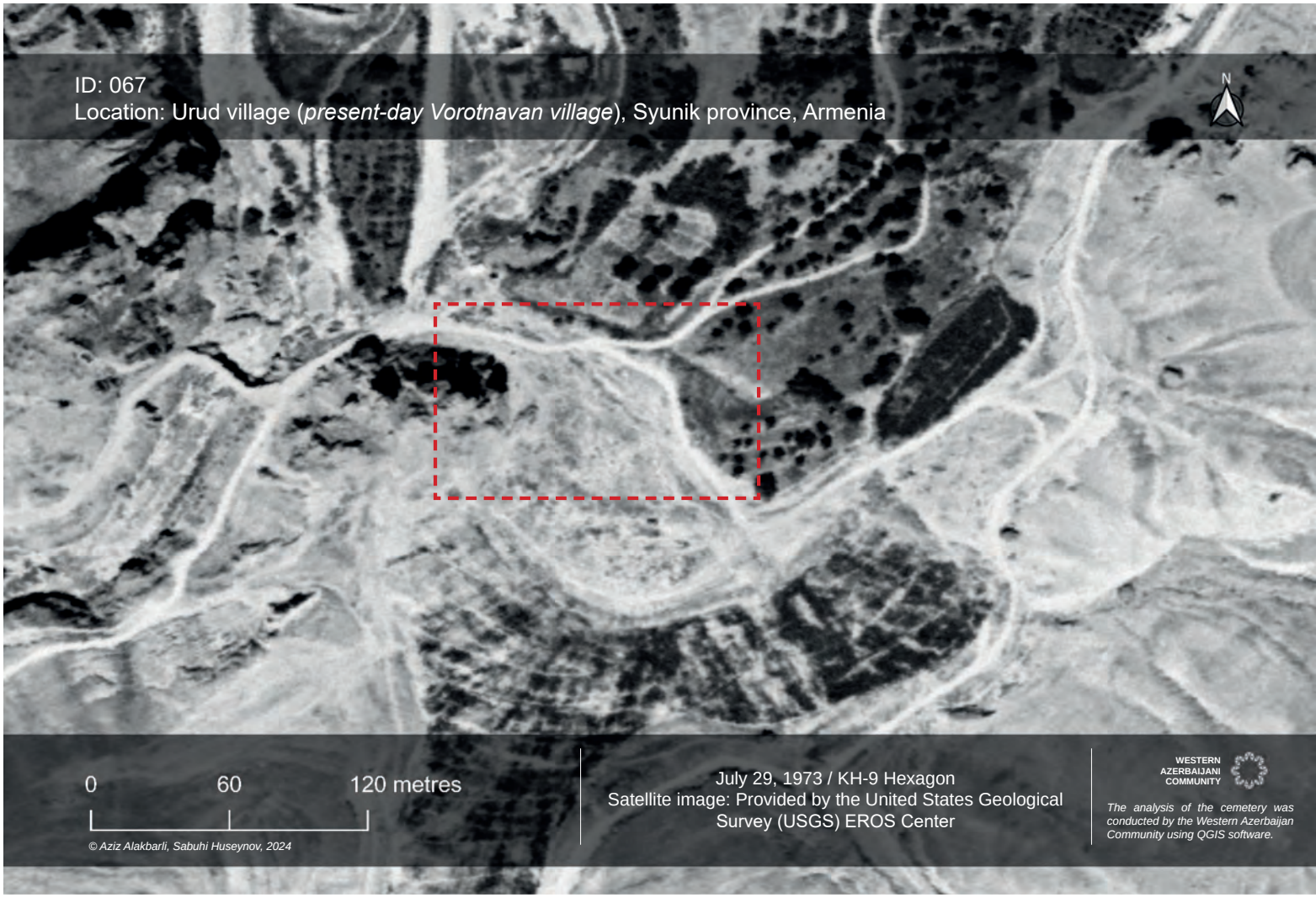
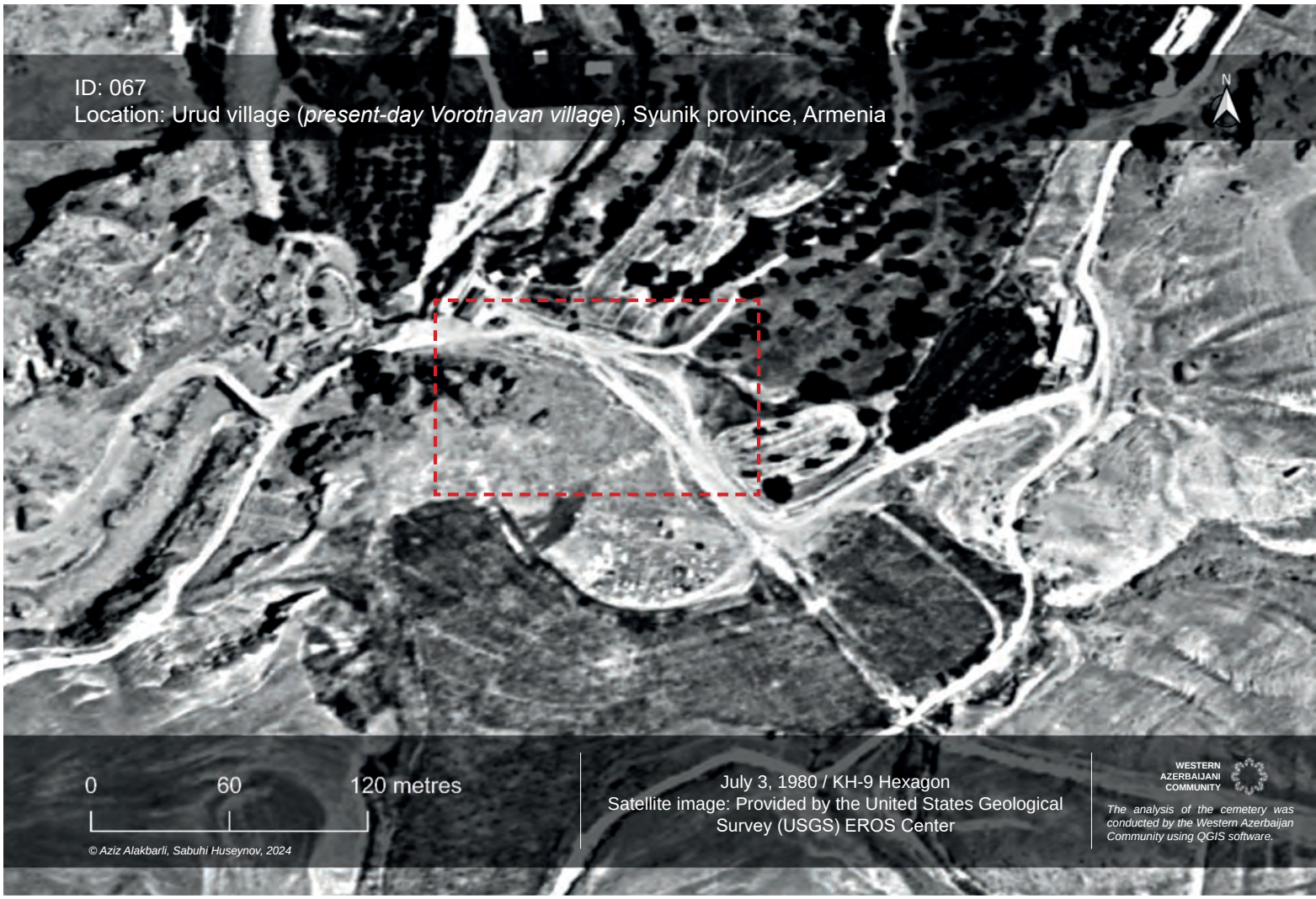
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-V (*Дастакерт*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21 (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 067
Location: Urud village (*present-day Vorotnavan village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

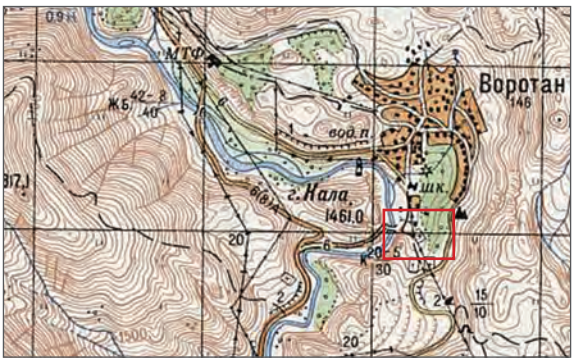

ID: 067
Location: Urud village (*present-day Vorotnavan village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 067
Location: Urud village (present-day Vorotnavan village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

4

2

3

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

5

6

7

8

From 1989 to 2006

Status: OBLITERATED

Urud Village New Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Urud village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vorotnavan village (Armenian)
ID: 110 [MC-430], 39.483149, 46.141482

Urud was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the bank of the Bazarchay river. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the 15th century, under the name Urud.[1] It was one of the oldest villages in the region. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 409 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Urud village, previously part of the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[3] On September 28, 1918, Urud village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[4] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 340 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[5] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated July 3, 1968, Urud village was renamed Vorotan.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Urud village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated June 9, 2017, Urud village was renamed Vorotnavan.[7]

The village's new cemetery was located to the south of the medieval cemetery. Within this cemetery stood the mausoleum of Sayyid Mir Ismayil Agha, a site of great reverence and pilgrimage for the Azerbaijani population of Zangezur.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.6 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Soviet-era photographs obtained by the authors provided further details about the tombstones and the mausoleum within the cemetery. The analysis confirmed the presence of tombstones dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. The tombstones were well preserved, with headstones crafted using specialized stone-carving techniques, and family graves enclosed by iron railings. These features confirmed that the graves were well maintained and that the site was kept in an orderly and clearly recognizable condition.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[9] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis results, the cemetery sustained significant damage between 1989 and 2011, and its eastern section was cleared and converted into a garden plot. The mausoleum of Sayyid Mir Ismayil Agha and the associated tombstones (Images Nos. 1–3), which appeared in the Hexagon imagery and Soviet-era photographs, were mostly destroyed; some were broken, desecrated, and subjected to acts of vandalism. Even prior to the date of the imagery, in 2006, a former resident of the village, Musa Urud, during a visit to the village, witnessed that the cemetery had been obliterated.[10]

Modern photographs dated 2022 confirm that only a few damaged tombstones remain throughout the cemetery (Images Nos. 4–9).

Thus, the cemetery was completely destroyed and obliterated between 1989 and 2006. A portion of the site was turned into a garden plot. As of 2022, traces of vandalism on some of the remaining tombstones were still visible on the site.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the south-southwestern part of Urud village, on the left bank of the Bazarchay river. This site is marked on topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[11] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. WorldView-2, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. Musa Urud, *Uruda iki säfär* (Baku: İlay, 2009).
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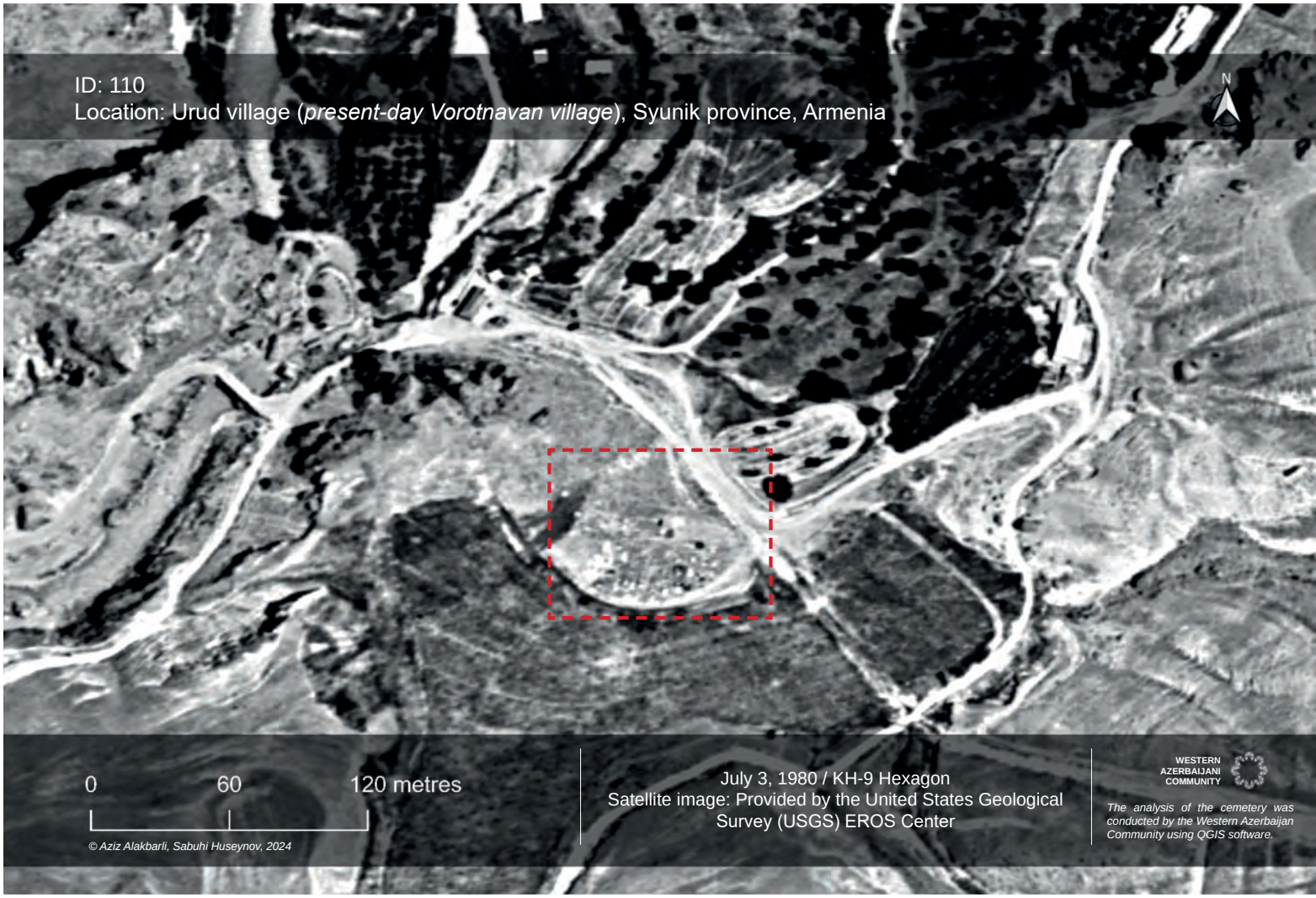
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21 (*Goris*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

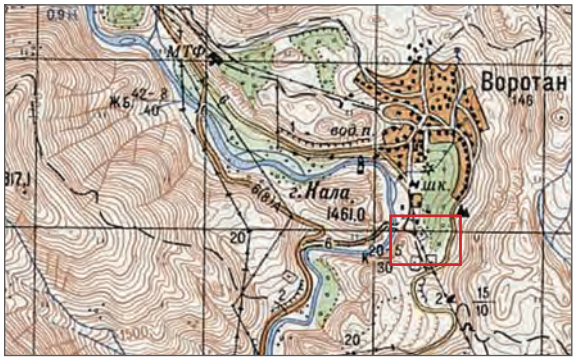

ID: 110
Location: Urud village (*present-day Vorotnavan village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 110
Location: Urud village (*present-day Vorotnavan village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

SOVIET-ERA PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Musa Urud, 2009

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

4

5

6

7

8

9

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2022

From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Vaghudi Village Cemetery

Location: Garakilsa district, Vaghudi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vaghatin village (Armenian)
ID: 071 [MC-174], 39.507674, 46.116775

Vaghudi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Bazarchay river, between Aghudi and Urud villages. It was incorporated into Garakilsa district on September 9, 1930, and later into Sisian district on March 2, 1940 Historical sources refer to the village as Vaghudi as early as the 14th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 870 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Vaghudi village, which had previously been part of the Vaghudi village commune[3] within the 1st police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In July 1918, Vaghudi village came under Armenian attack, during which 260 men, 100 women, and 100 children were killed with particular cruelty. The surviving population was forced to leave the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] From that period onward, Armenian refugees brought in from the present-day territory of Turkiye were settled in the village. During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1921, 131 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside the Armenian refugees.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, approximately 2,000 Azerbaijani residents of Vaghudi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Vaghudi village was renamed Vaghatin.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.7 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 31, 2011[10] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2011. The analysis revealed that only a small number of tombstone fragments remained. In the northern part of the area, earthmoving activities carried out with a bulldozer were identified. This was evidenced by visible blade marks on the ground surface. Similar earthmoving activities were also observed in the southern section.

To determine the scale and timing of the destruction in the cemetery, the authors utilized video footage taken at the site. Although the analysis of the video imagery confirmed that approximately eight old tombstones were still standing, the entire cemetery had been completely destroyed. The headstones had been removed and taken away. The limited number of broken and shattered headstones present at the site confirmed that the destruction was not driven by vandalism, but rather by looting.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and January 7, 2014[11] (Ikonos-2) indicated that the situation in the area remained stable during this period. An analysis of satellite imagery from 2014 and July 25, 2019[12] (Airbus) revealed that the cemetery was obliterated entirely.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on a high hill in the northern part of Vaghudi village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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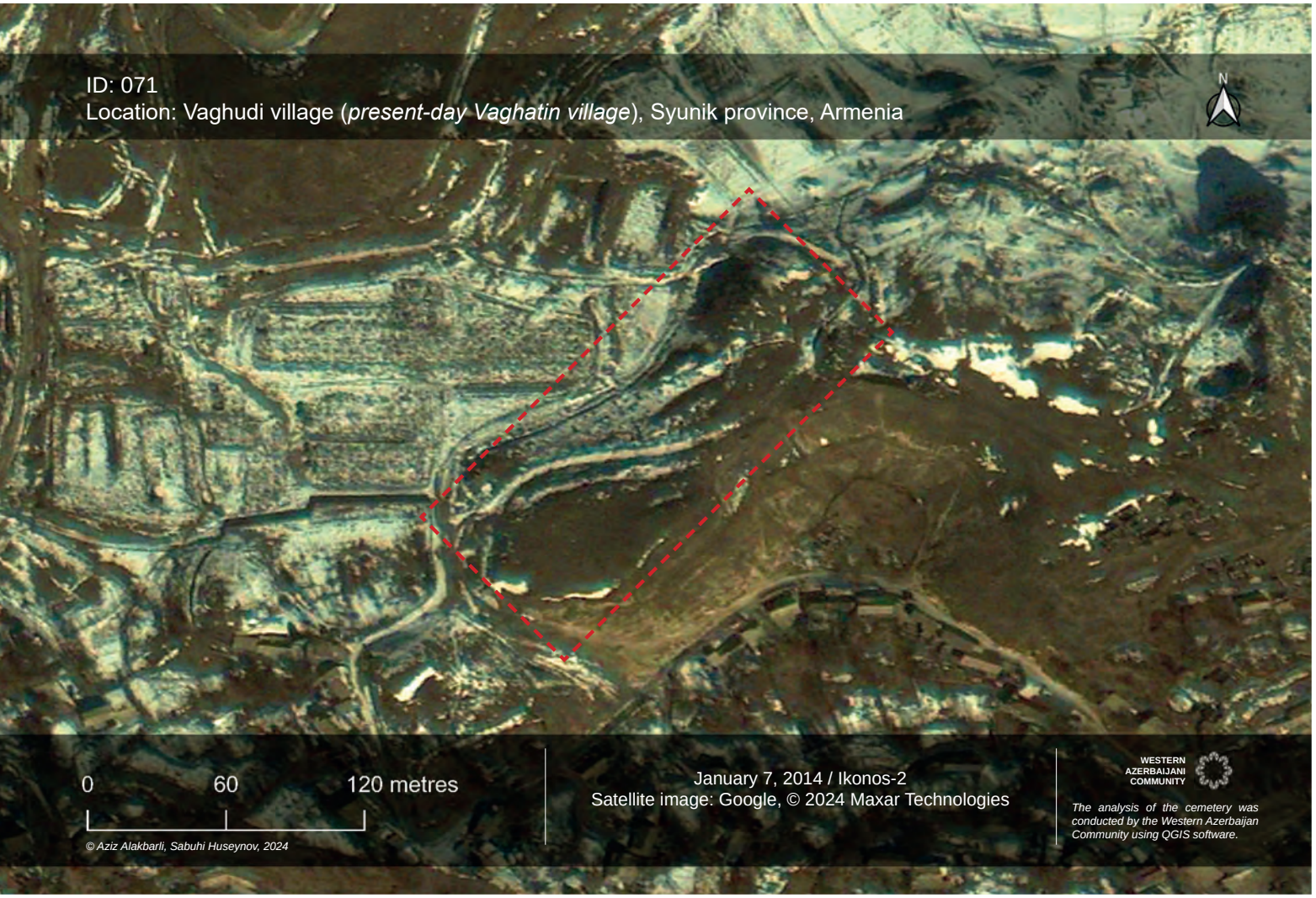
10. *WorldView-2*, August 31, 2011, Maxar via Esri Map.
11. *Ikonos-2*, January 07, 2014, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. July 25, 2019, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-21-A (*Sisian*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.

ID: 071
Location: Vaghudi village (*present-day Vaghatin village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 071
Location: Vaghudi village (*present-day Vaghatin village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

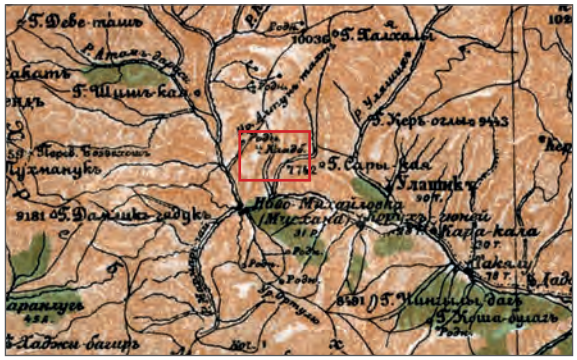

ID: 071
Location: Vaghudi village (*present-day Vaghatin village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 7, 2014 / Ikonos-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 071
Location: Vaghudi village (*present-day Vaghatin village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 16, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

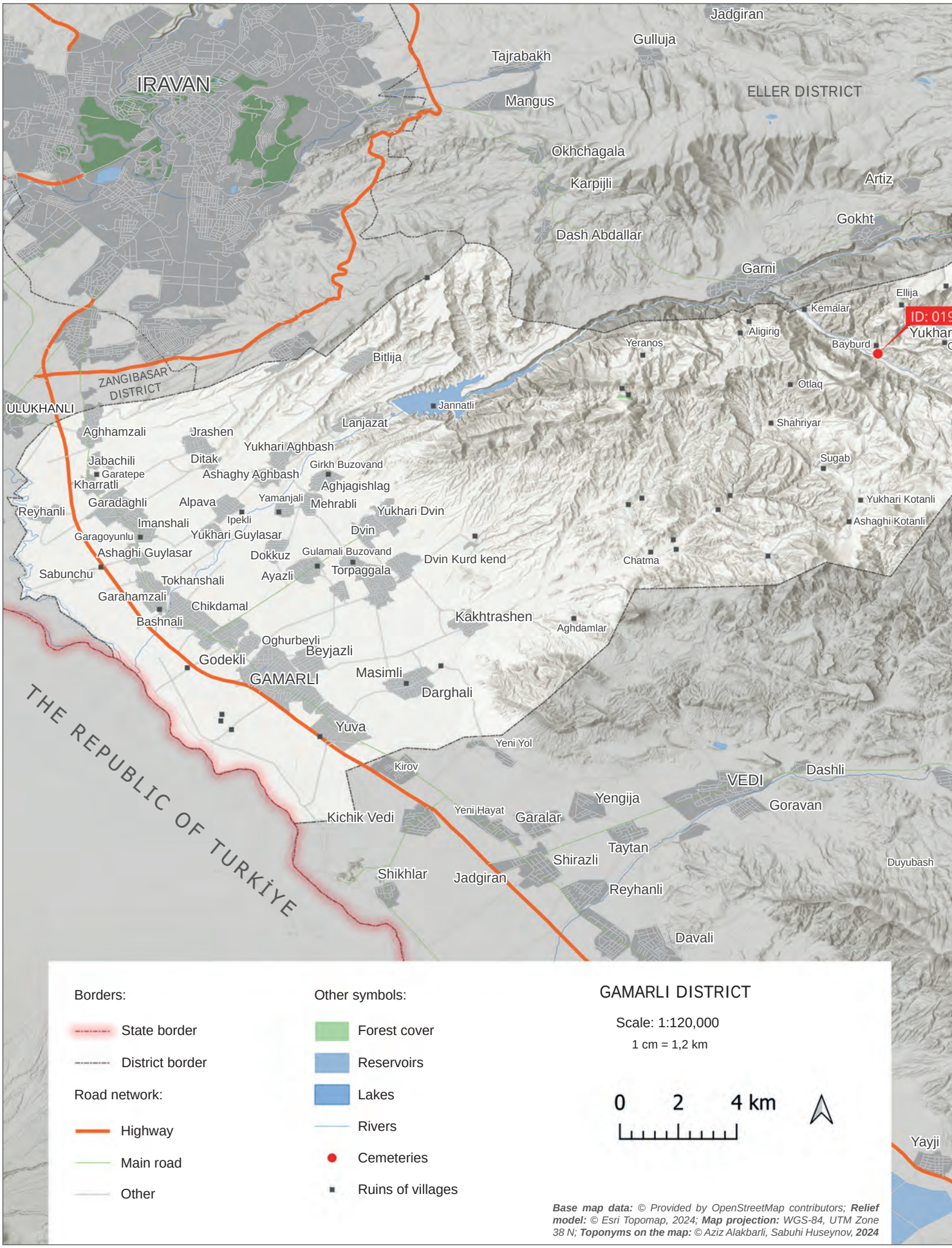
1

2

3

4

Still frames from video footage


IRAVAN
Jadgiran
Gulluja
Tajrabakh
ELLER DISTRICT
Mangus
Okhchagala
Karpijli
Artiz
Gokht
Dash Abdallar
Garni
Ellija
Kemalar
Aligirig
Yeranos
Bayburd
Bitlija
ZANGIBASAR DISTRICT
ULUKHANLI
Jannatli
Otlaq
Lanjazat
Shahriyar
Aghhamzali
Jrashen
Yukhari Aghbash
Sugab
Jabachili
Ditak
Girkh Buzovand
Garatepe
Ashaghy Aghbash
Kharratli
Aghjagishlag
Yukhari Kotanli
Garadaghli
Alpava
Yamanjali
Mehrabli
Reyhanli
Yukhari Dvin
Ashaghi Kotanli
Imanshali
Ipekli
Dvin
Garagoyunlu
Yukhari Guylasar
Ashaghi Guylasar
Dokkuz
Gulamali Buzovand
Dvin Kurd kend
Chatma
Sabunchu
Tokhanshali
Ayazli
Torpaggala
Garahamzali
Chikdamal
Kakhtrashen
Bashnali
Aghdamlar
Oghurbeyli
Beyjazli
Godekli
GAMARLI
Masimli
Darghali
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
Yuva
Yeni Yol
Kirov
VEDI
Dashli
Yengija
Goravan
Yeni Hayat
Garalar
Kichik Vedi
Taytan
Shirazli
Duyubash
Shikhlar
Jadgiran
Reyhanli
Davali
Yayji
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
GAMARLI DISTRICT
Scale: 1:120,000
1 cm = 1,2 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

GAMARLI DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Garnibasar *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Gamarli district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 507 sq. km.

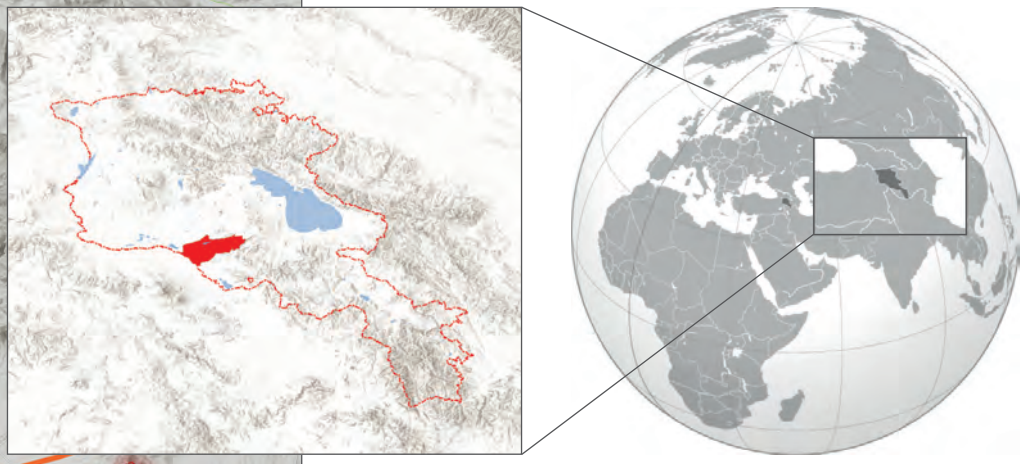
The administrative center of the district was the city of Gamarli (*later renamed Artashat, A.A., S.H.*), a city under direct republican administration, located 29 km from Iravan city. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated September 4, 1945, Gamarli district was renamed Artashat.

According to 1970 records, the district included one city under direct republican administration, 13 village councils, and 40 residential settlements. The district's population (*excluding Gamarli city, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 58,900.

Since Gamarli district was located near Iravan and encompassed the fertile lands of the *Iğdır* valley, its villages were subjected to forcibly resettled between 1948 and 1951. Armenians arriving from abroad were settled in the Azerbaijani-populated villages that had been emptied.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Yamanjali and Bayburt.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Ararat province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 2010 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Bayburt Village Cemetery

Location: Gamarli district, Bayburt village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 019 [MC-002], 40.0882758, 44.7858933

Bayburt was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Millidara region, Vedibasar *mahal*, located on the right bank of the Davagozu river. It was incorporated into Gamarli district on September 9, 1930, and later into Artashat on September 4, 1945. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* (*'Kavkazskii kalendar'*), the village had 284 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Bayburt village, previously part of the Bash Garni village commune[3] of 1st police district of Iravan *uezd* in the Iravan Governorate, was left within the borders of Armenia, by the decision of a joint commission dated July 5, 1918.[4] However, the village population did not accept this rule. Following the withdrawal of Ottoman forces from the region on October 30, 1918, Bayburt village was subjected to Armenian aggression on November 7, 1918. The population was forced to abandon the village, which was then occupied by Armenians.[5]

During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Bayburt village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 55 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[7] In 1952, the village population—218 individuals from 54 families—was deported to Goshabulag village in Agdash district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] Of the 54 families residing in the village at the time, only 5 or 6 refused to relocate and continued living in the village after its official dissolution. The population continued living in the village without being officially registered until 1988, and by the 1980s, the Azerbaijani population in the village had again increased, reaching approximately 150 people.[9]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Bayburt village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery covered an area of 0.7 hectares. Tombstones were primarily identified in the northwestern part, while in other areas they were detected by their heterogeneous, patchy surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1973 and August 7, 2010[12] (Maxar) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2010. Excavation and earthmoving activities, as well as trenches, were identified in the areas where tombstones had been located.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2010 and September 3, 2023[13] (Airbus) indicated that the fragments of destroyed tombstones remained undisturbed, and that the area had not been repurposed for any other use.

Thus, based on the comparative analysis of satellite imagery, it was determined that the cemetery had been completely deprived of its original form, the tombstones had been destroyed, and the site had consequently lost its cultural and historical value. This inflicted serious damage on both cultural heritage and historical memory.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the southwest of Bayburt village, on the left side of the road leading to Golaysor village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1982 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1973 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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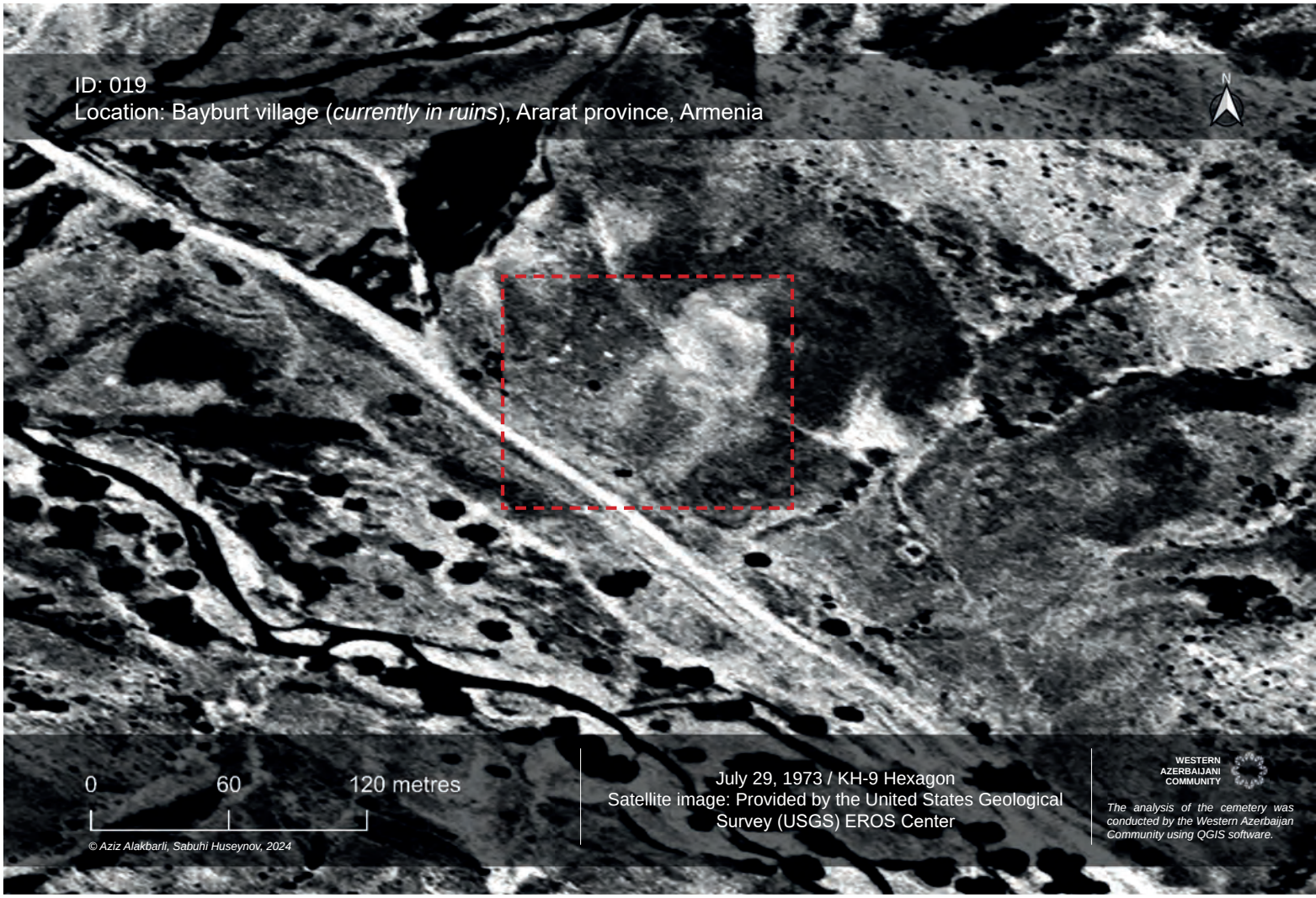
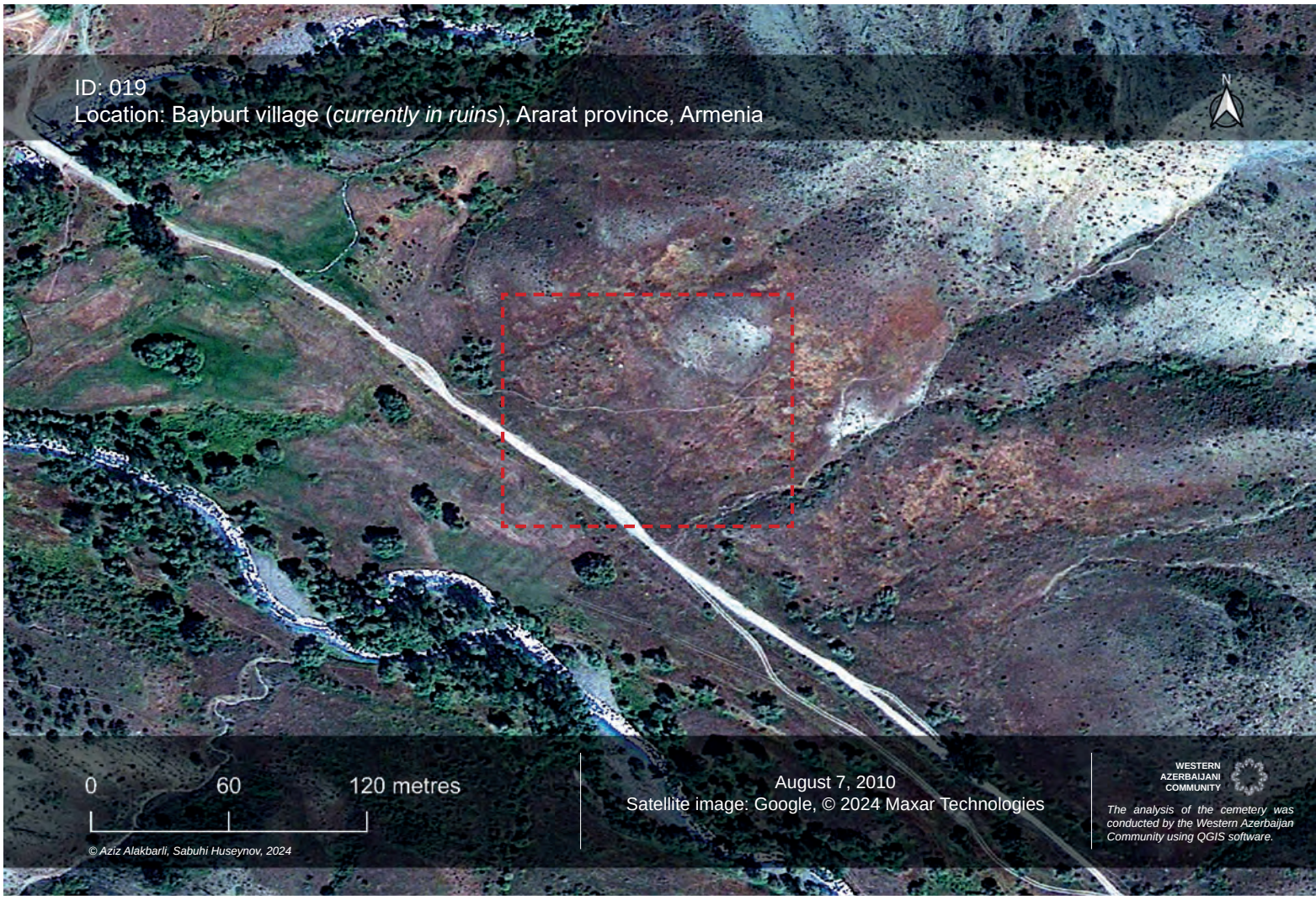
10. *Ibid.*
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100170A015*, July 29, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. August 07, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. September 03, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-138-G (*Gokht*) [map], scale 1:50, 000, 1974.
15. General'nyï Shtab, K-38-138 (*Erevan*) [map], scale 1:100,000,1982.


ID: 019
Location: Bayburt village (*currently in ruins*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 019
Location: Bayburt village (*currently in ruins*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 7, 2010
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 019
Location: Bayburt village (*currently in ruins*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 3, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

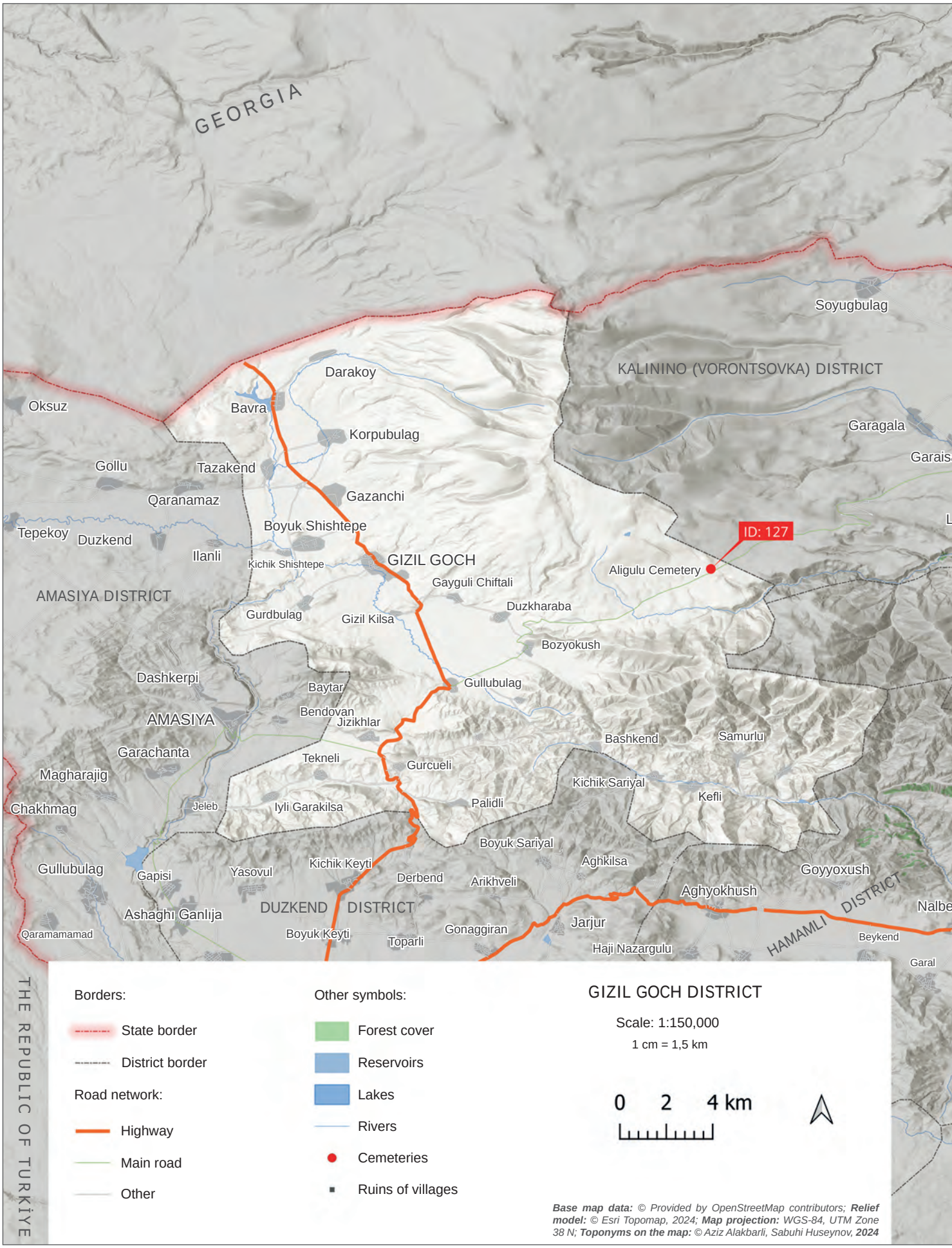
Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

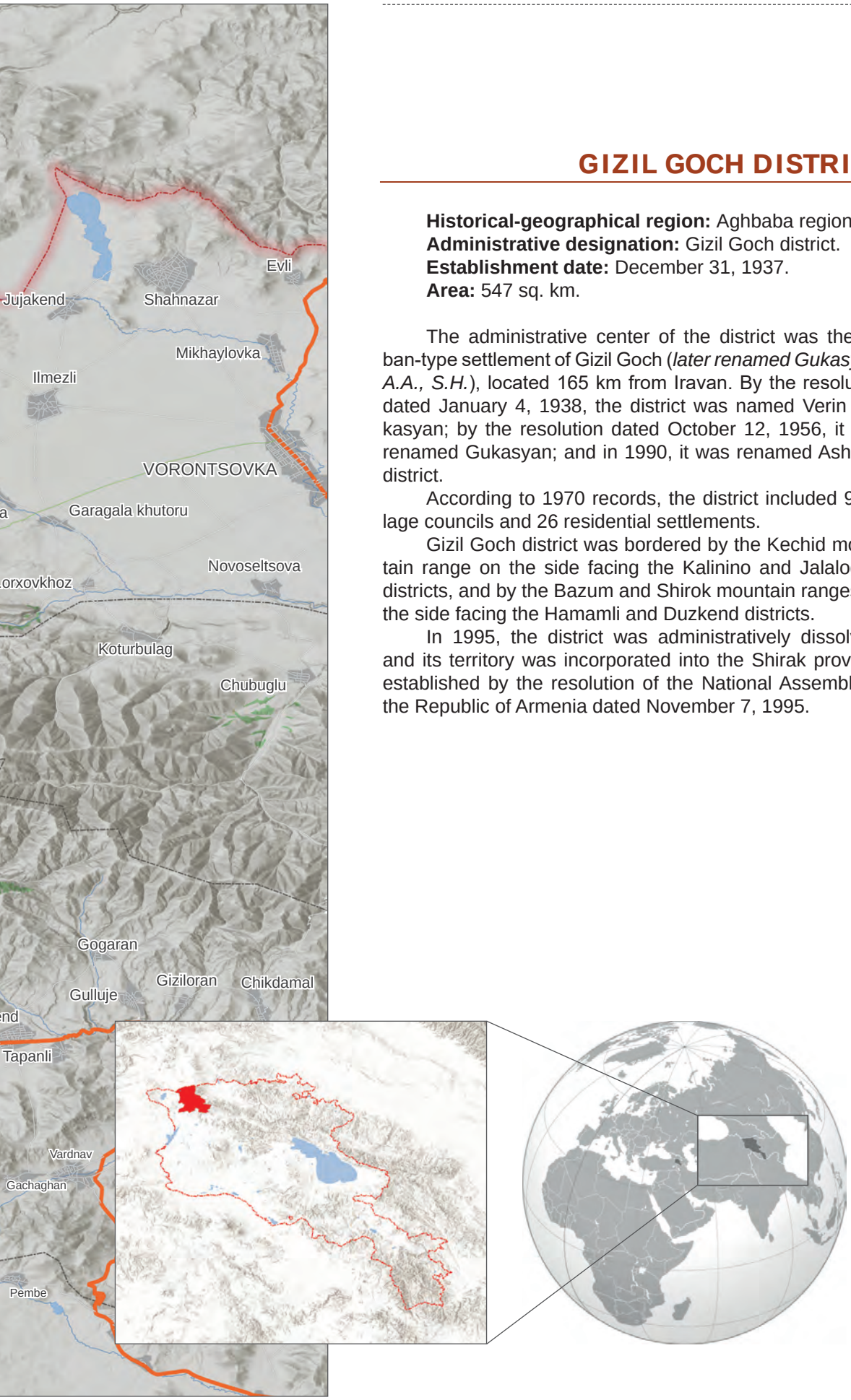
1982

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1982 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE AREA:

© Jon Gudorf. 2017


GEORGIA
Soyugbulag
KALININO (VORONTSOVKA) DISTRICT
Darakoy
Oksuz
Bavra
Korpubulag
Garagala
Gollu
Tazakend
Qaranamaz
Gazanchi
Tepekoy
Duzkend
Boyuk Shishtepe
ID: 127
Ilanli
Kichik Shishtepe
GIZIL GOCH
Aligulu Cemetery
Gayguli Chiftali
AMASIYA DISTRICT
Duzkharaba
Gurdbulag
Gizil Kilsa
Bozyokush
Dashkerpi
Baytar
Gullubulag
Bendovan
Jizikhlar
AMASIYA
Bashkend
Samurlu
Garachanta
Tekneli
Gurcueli
Magharajig
Kichik Sariyal
Kefli
Chakhmag
Jeleb
Iyli Garakilsa
Palidli
Boyuk Sariyal
Gullubulag
Gapisi
Yasovul
Kichik Keyti
Aghkilsa
Goyyoxush
Derbend
Arikhveli
Aghyokhush
DUZKEND DISTRICT
Nalbe
Ashaghi Ganlija
Jarjur
HAMAMLI DISTRICT
Qaramamad
Boyuk Keyti
Gonaggiran
Beykend
Toparli
Haji Nazargulu
Garal
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
GIZIL GOCH DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



GIZIL GOCH DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Aghbaba region.
Administrative designation: Gizil Goch district.
Establishment date: December 31, 1937.
Area: 547 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Gizil Goch (*later renamed Gukasyan, A.A., S.H.*), located 165 km from Iravan. By the resolution dated January 4, 1938, the district was named Verin Gukasyan; by the resolution dated October 12, 1956, it was renamed Gukasyan; and in 1990, it was renamed Ashotsk district.

According to 1970 records, the district included 9 village councils and 26 residential settlements.

Gizil Goch district was bordered by the Kechid mountain range on the side facing the Kalinino and Jalaloghlu districts, and by the Bazum and Shirok mountain ranges on the side facing the Hamamli and Duzkend districts.

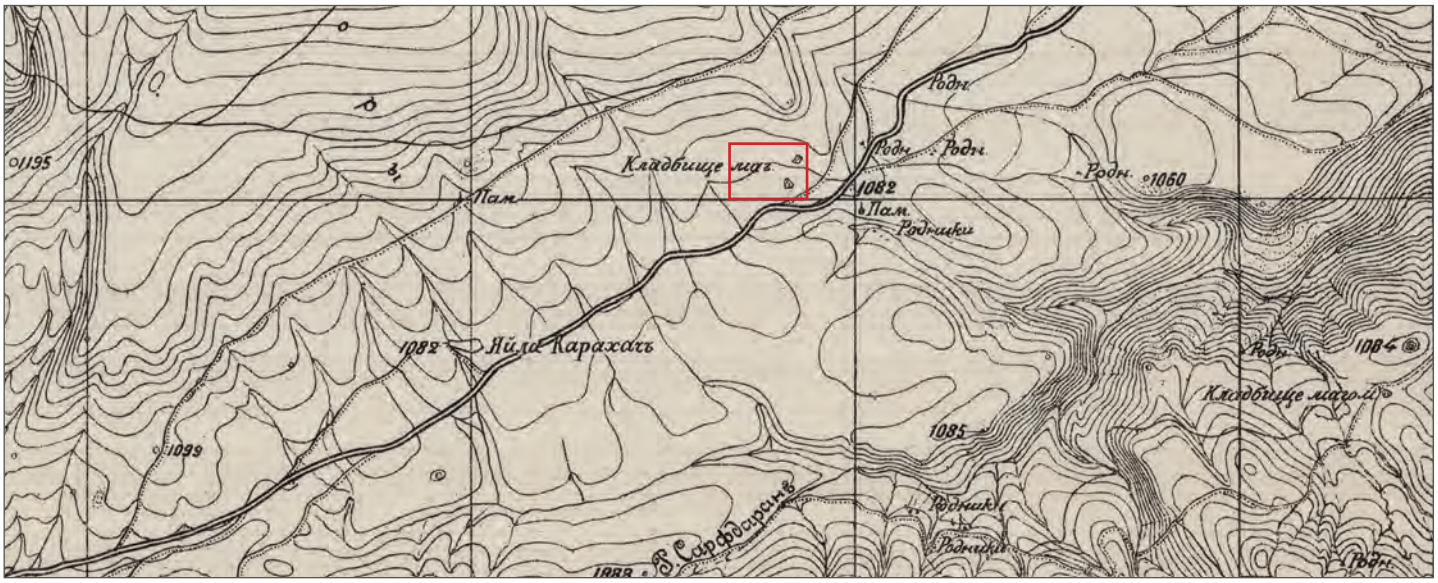
In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Shirak province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Aligulu (Ali-Gulu) Cemetery

Location: Gizil Goch district, Garaarkhach summer pasture (Azerbaijani) / Shirak province, Garaarkhach summer pasture (Armenian)
ID: 127 [MC-179], 41.034207, 44.031557



Aligulu Cemetery was located in the Garaarkhach summer pasture, belonging to Azerbaijanis in the Aghbaba region. The area was incorporated into Gizil Goch district on December 31, 1937, Verin Gukasyan district on January 4, 1938, Gukasyan district on October 13, 1956, and Ashotsk district in 1990. On a 1:42,000 scale map (1-verst map) prepared in 1898 and republished in 1931, two cemeteries were marked in the pasture; on a 1:50,000 scale map published in 1978, three cemeteries were marked. The largest of these was the cemetery located in the north. That cemetery was the Aligulu cemetery, known for its rich collection of tombstones featuring ram- and horse-shaped statues. According to epigraphic inscriptions on the tombstones, the cemetery had been in use since the 14th century.[1]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated September 20, 1971[2] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2 hectares, with tombstones identifiable through a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern. As most of the tombstones at the site are old, the majority of them have sunk halfway into the ground over time, with some fully submerged. This has created a heterogeneous surface effect in the satellite imagery. As this site was a seasonal summer pasture regularly visited by the Azerbaijani population during the Soviet period, the tombstones were maintained.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1971 and October 15, 2023[3] (Airbus) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the region. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction and was ultimately obliterated between 1989 and 2023.

From the southwestern and southern parts of the large cemetery, noticeable bulldozer tracks on the ground surface are visible. Both cemeteries located in the southern section were destroyed as a result of such earthmoving activities. From the northern cemetery, only the ruins of a few grave slabs remain.

Thus, aside from a few remaining grave slabs, it has been determined that all three cemeteries were destroyed.

GEOLOCATION:

It is located 170 meters north of the left side of the road, 2.5 km northeast of the Garaghaj summer pasture. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1926 (1:210,000 scale)[4], 1931 (1:42,000)[5], 1935 (1:210,000)[6], 1938 (1:210,000)[7], 1975 (1:50,000)[8], 1976 (1:100,000)[9], and 1978 (1:200,000)[10]. Referring to the coordinates indicated on the 1978 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the Corona image from 1971 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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3. October 15, 2023. Airbus via Google Earth.
4. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 7, List D (Akhalakalaki) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
5. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-31 (Khrebet-Karakhach) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
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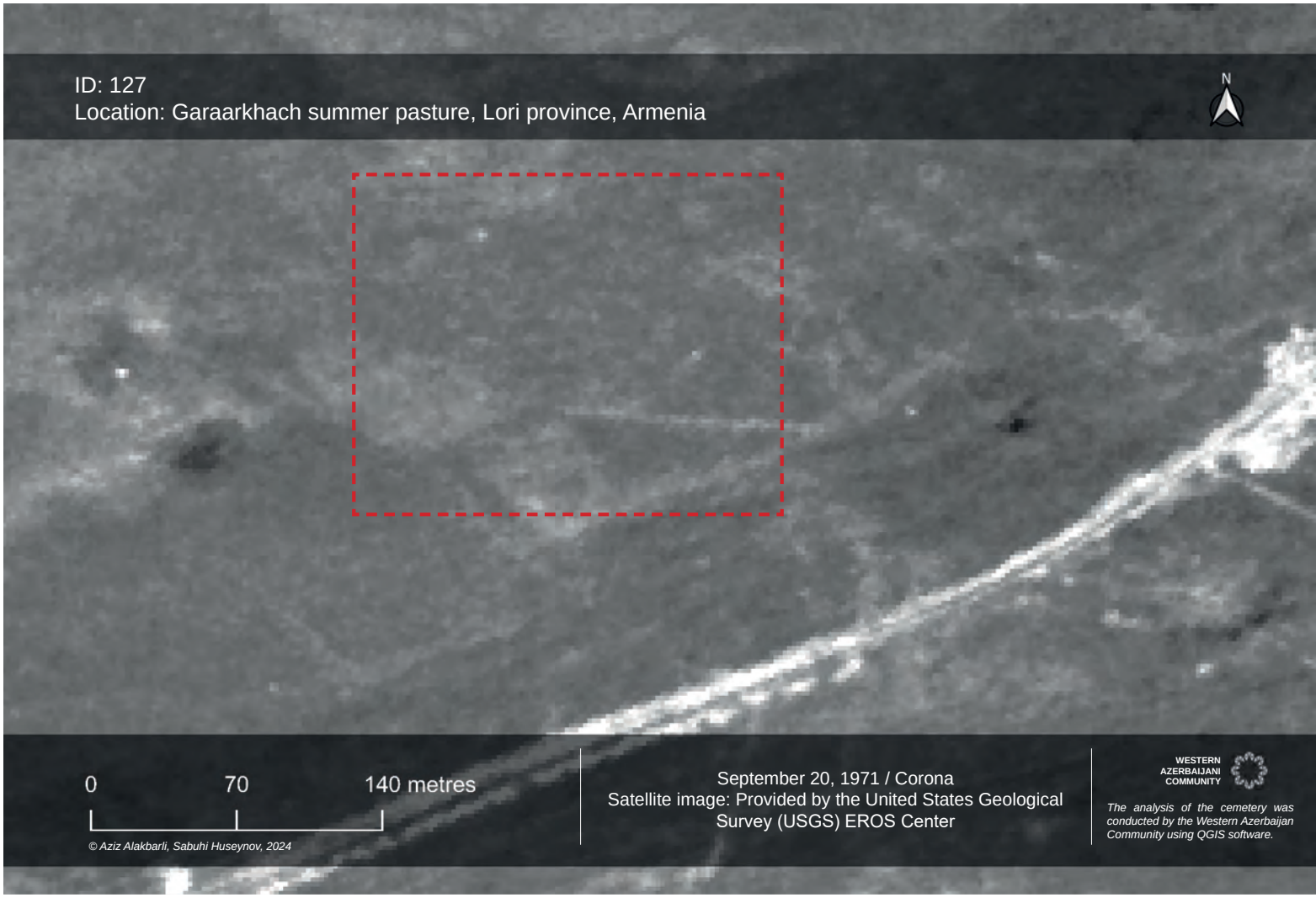
8. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-V (*Katnakhpiur*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-XXVII (*Kirovakan*) [map], 1:200,000, 1978.


ID: 127
Location: Garaarkhach summer pasture, Lori province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 1971 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 127
Location: Garaarkhach summer pasture, Lori province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

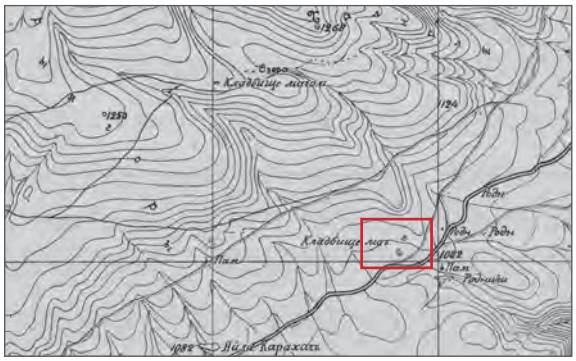
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1935

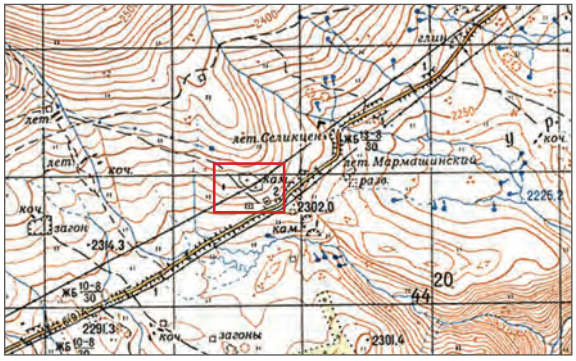
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1935 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1938

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1938 by the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

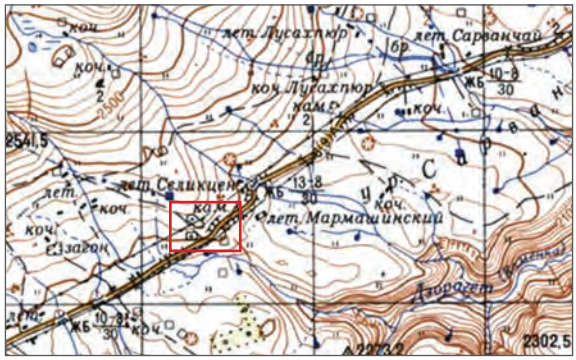
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



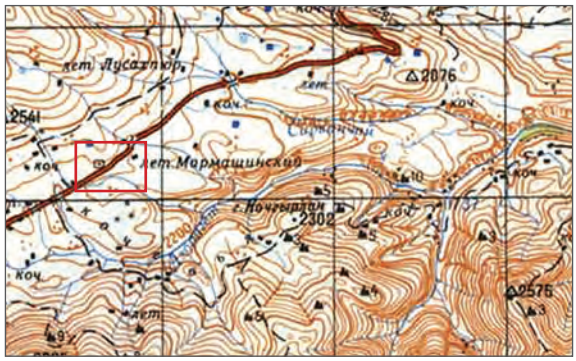
1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



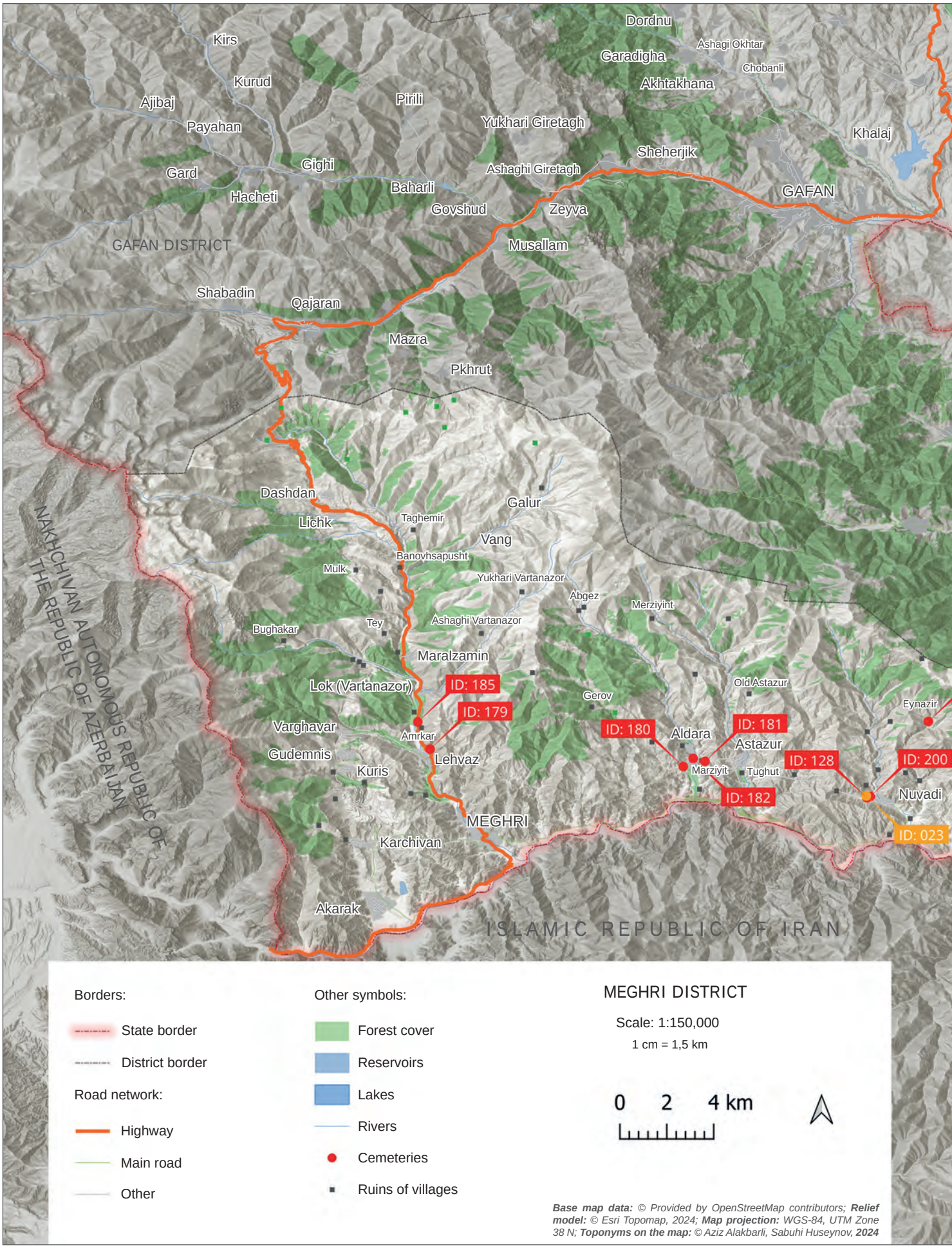
1978

Marked on a *1:200,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

Google © 2024, Airbus, 2023


Dordnu
Kirs
Ashagi Okhtar
Garadigha
Chobanli
Kurud
Akhtakhana
Ajibaj
Pirili
Payahan
Yukhari Giretagh
Khalaj
Sheherjik
Gard
Gighi
Ashaghi Giretagh
Baharli
GAFAN
Hacheti
Govshud
Zeyva
GAFAN DISTRICT
Musallam
Shabadin
Qajaran
Mazra
Pkhrut
Dashdan
Galur
Lichk
Taghemir
Vang
Banovhsapusht
Mulk
Yukhari Vartanazor
Abgez
Merziyint
Tey
Ashaghi Vartanazor
Bughakar
Maralzamin
Lok (Vartanazor)
ID: 185
Old Astazur
Gerov
Eynazir
ID: 179
ID: 180
Aldara
ID: 181
Varghavar
Amrkar
Astazur
Gudemnis
Lehvaz
Marziyit
Tughut
ID: 128
ID: 200
Kuris
ID: 182
Nuvadi
MEGHRI
ID: 023
Karchivan
Akarak
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
MEGHRI DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

MEGHRI DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Meghri *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Meghri district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 664 sq. km.

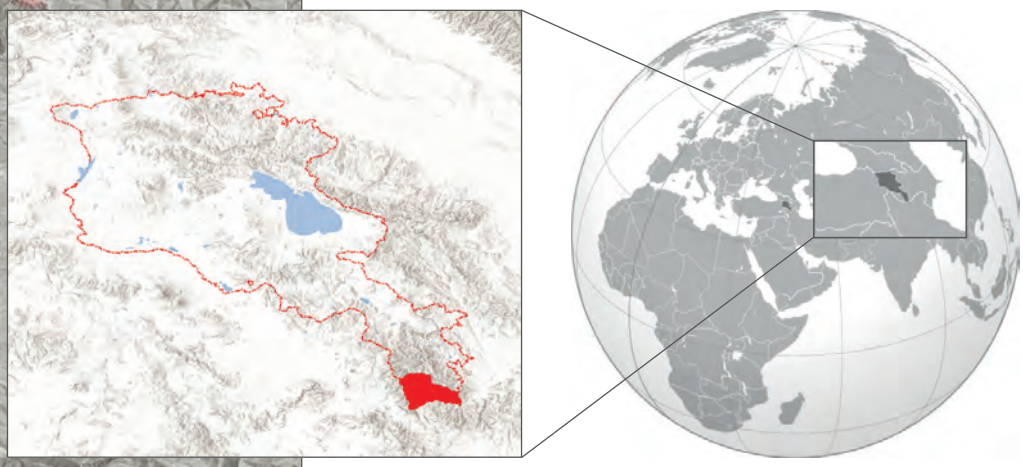
The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Meghri, located 264 km from Iravan.

According to 1970 records, the district included two urban-type settlements, 8 village councils, and 18 residential settlements.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Aldara, Akarak, Kuraduzu, Lehvaz, Lok, Maralzami, Meghri and Nuvadi.

In the past, there were 23 villages within the territory of the Meghri district. The majority of these villages were inhabited by Azerbaijanis. Of those villages, only the ruins of Taghamir, Mulk, Bughakar, Tughut, and Amrakar remain today.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Syunik province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Aldara Village New Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Aldara village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Alvank village (Armenian)
ID: 180 [MC-232], 38.933982, 46.343572

Aldara was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on both banks of the Aldara river, a left tributary of the Araz river. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,987 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Aldara village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Aldara village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Between 1922 and 1926, 42 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resumed living there; by 1931, the number of returnees had reached 448.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On November 28, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Aldara village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Aldara village was renamed Alvank.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated March 29, 1978[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery was located on a slope of elevated terrain, covering an area of 0.57 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Based on their analysis of Soviet-era photographs, the authors determined that, during that period, the graves in the cemetery were arranged in an orderly manner, enclosed by stone perimeters or iron railings. This indicated that the site had been well preserved.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1978 and September 13, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2003. Photographs from the 2000s confirmed the destruction of the cemetery (Images Nos. 2–4).

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2003 and November 11, 2018[11] (Airbus) revealed that the situation in the area remained unchanged within this timeframe. It was determined that the vegetation was undergoing a process of natural regeneration. The regeneration or decline of vegetation indicated that the destruction had not occurred at a single point in time, but had been carried out over an extended period. The vegetation analysis provided grounds to assume that the destruction likely took place much earlier, between 1989 and 1995.

Based on comparative analyses conducted using this data, it can be concluded that the damage inflicted on the new cemetery in Aldara village was deliberate. The vegetation analysis also demonstrated that the destruction had been carried out systematically during specific periods, confirming the persistence of the intent to obliterate. Following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village by Armenia, the cemetery was obliterated in an effort to erase the traces of historical and cultural heritage. This formed part of the cultural genocide committed against Azerbaijanis.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the southwest of Aldara village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[12]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1978 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
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10. September 13, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. April 29, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45-B (Niuvadi)* [map], 1:50,000, 1977.

ID: 180
Location: Aldara village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 29, 1978 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

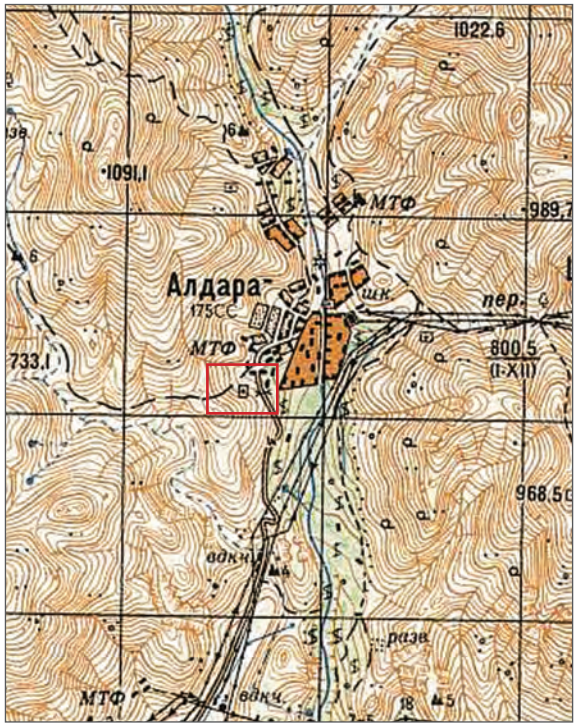
ID: 180
Location: Aldara village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 13, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 180
Location: Aldara village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 29, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



SOVIET-ERA AND CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Aldara Village Old Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Aldara village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Alvank village (Armenian)
ID: 182 [MC-434], 38.937911, 46.348398

Aldara was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on both banks of the Aldara river, a left tributary of the Araz river. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,987 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Aldara village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Aldara village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Between 1922 and 1926, 42 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resumed living there; by 1931, the number of returnees had reached 448.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On November 28, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Aldara village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Aldara village was renamed Alvank.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated March 29, 1978[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.16 hectares, characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern. The area where the cemetery was located consisted of a low hill rising approximately 1–2 meters above the surrounding terrain. The area was split through the middle and reshaped into two separate mounds, disrupting the site's physical integrity.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1978 and September 13, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, at some point between 1989 and 2003, the tombstones in the cemetery were removed, earthmoving activities were carried out on the site, and a residential house was built on the northern mound where the cemetery had been situated.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the center of Aldara village, 250 meters west of the school, at an elevation of 622 meters above sea level. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1978 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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1. *Zängäzur mahalïnïn kameral täsviri 1832–1833-ji illär*, transl., ed., intro., notes, and comments by Nazir Ahmädli (Baku: Elm vä Tehsil, 2021), 168.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 87.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *O vooruzhennom napadenii i razgrome seleniya Aldara Zangezurskogo uyezda,* ARDA, f. 1601, op. 1, d. 90, ll. 5–6.
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7. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 45.
8. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 33.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1214-100121F020*, March 29, 1978, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. September 13, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45-B (Niuvadi)* [map], 1:50,000, 1977.

ID: 182
Location: Aldara village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 29, 1978 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 182
Location: Aldara village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 13, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Unknown

Status: OBLITERATED

Eynazir Village Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Eynazir village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, abandoned village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 188 [MC-332], 38.956028, 46.463694

Eynazir was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the southern foothills of Kham Boyuk mountain, in an area known as Tayliyurd. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. The village was also known as Eynazur, Eynazor, and Ernazir. Historical sources refer to Eynazir village as early as the 1590s.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (referred to as *"Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 562 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Eynazir village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1918, Eynazir village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1921, 207 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] After 1921, the village remained a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR. However, in 1929, the village was forcibly incorporated into the Armenian SSR against the will of its residents by a decision of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian SFSR at a session held on February 18, 1929.[7] Subsequently, the Meghri *uezd* was established within the Armenian SSR. Unfortunately, this decision, made in defiance of the will of the village population, was ultimately ratified by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR on May 9, 1969. After Eynazir village was incorporated into the Armenian SSR, it was dissolved, and its population was relocated to the neighboring village of Nuvadi.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In August 1991, residents of Eynazir, along with the Azerbaijani residents of Nuvadi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

In 2019, a scholarly research paper on the Eynazir cemetery was published. The paper, authored by R. Kordoshyan, stated that most of the tombstones in the cemetery of the now-ruined settlement were still in place. However, the author included photographs of only three of these tombstones in the study. One of the photographed tombstones bore the Hijri date of 1289, corresponding to 1872/1873 in the Gregorian calendar. The second was identified as belonging to a person buried in 1937, with the inscription written in Cyrillic script, and the third to an individual buried in 1949.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

In the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery obtained by the authors, it was not possible to precisely identify the location of the cemetery. An analysis of the coordinates marked on the topographic map, in conjunction with satellite imagery dated April 24, 2024[10] (Airbus), revealed that the area still exhibited a heterogeneous surface, which helped in identifying the location of the cemetery. Although some fragments of tombstones could be observed in the area, the rest of the site was distinguished by its heterogeneous surface. This may be attributed to the presence of sunken tombstones and dense vegetation cover. However, the claim by R. Kordoshyan that all the tombstones in the Eynazir cemetery remained intact was not substantiated; on the contrary, the cemetery had been obliterated.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated southwest of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1940 (1:100,000 scale)[10]. In the topographic map dated 1977 (scale 1:50,000)[11], the site was marked as ruins. Using the coordinates from the 1940 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 2024 Airbus imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 212.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
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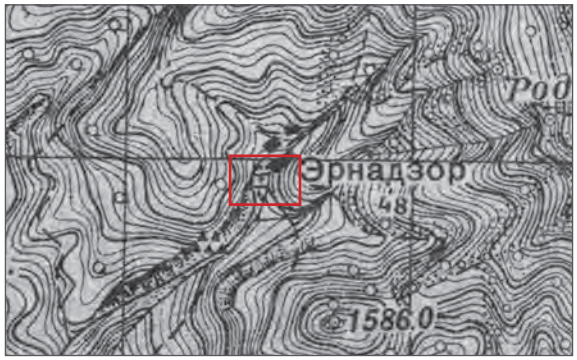
10. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45 (Ordubad)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1941.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45-B (Niuvadi)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1977.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

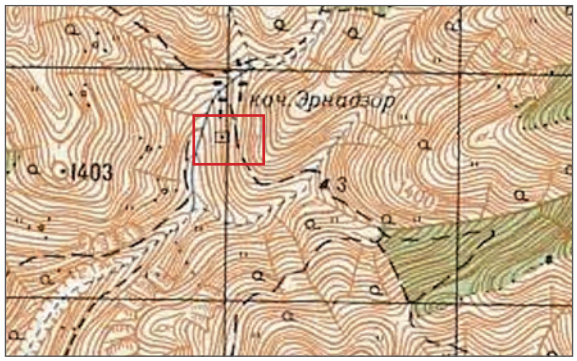
1941

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.



1977

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1977 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

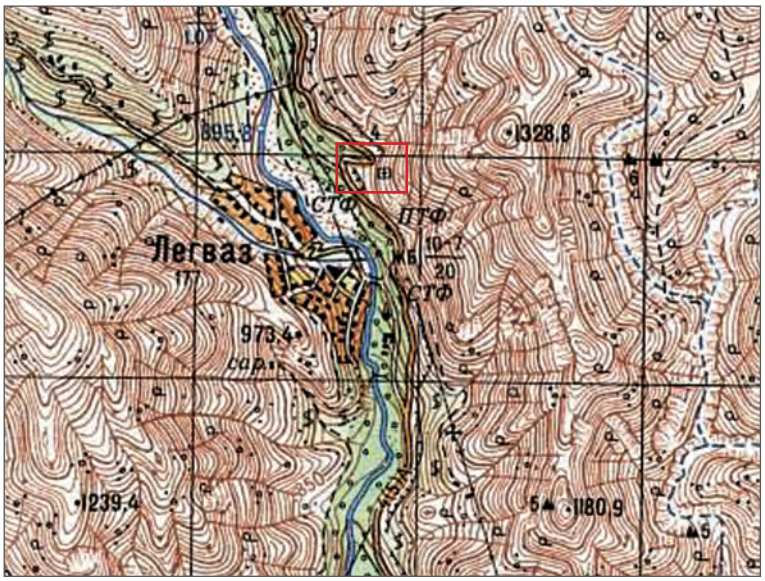
© R.Kordoshyan, 2019

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Lehvaz Village Old Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Lehvaz village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Leyvaz village (Armenian)
ID: 179 [MC-104], 38.942494, 46.219494



Lehvaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the right bank of the Meghri river. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to Lehvaz as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('Kavkazskii kalendar'), the village had 836 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Lehvaz village, which had previously been part of the Meghri village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the autumn of 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, during which 53 men and 35 women were killed with particular cruelty. The surviving population was forced to leave the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] From that period onward, Armenian refugees brought in from the present-day territory of Turkiye were settled in the village. During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1921, 136 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living together with 116 Armenian refugees who had settled there.[6]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, 1,002 Azerbaijani residents of Lehvaz village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Lehvaz village was renamed Leyvaz.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 12, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis identified the cemetery area, along with objects resembling tombstones.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and September 13, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the east of Lehvaz village, on the right side of the old road leading to Lok village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[11]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.*, ch. 2 (1st year of publication), *ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.*
5. *O razgrome vooruzhennym otryadom armyan seleniya Legvaz i otselka Banavshanyush Zangezurskogo uyezda,* ARDA, f.1061, op.1, d. 80, ll.5–6.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
7. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 227.
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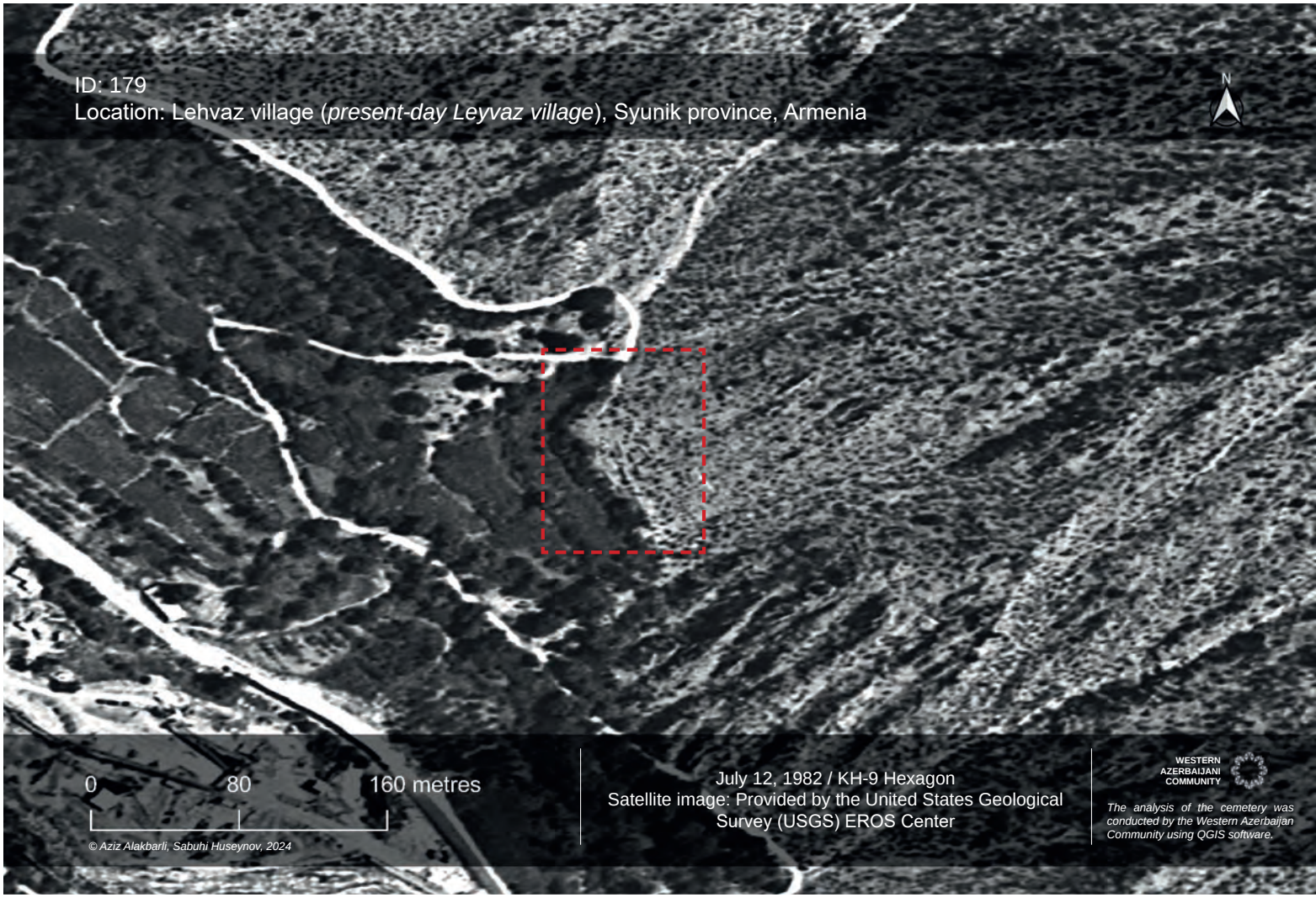
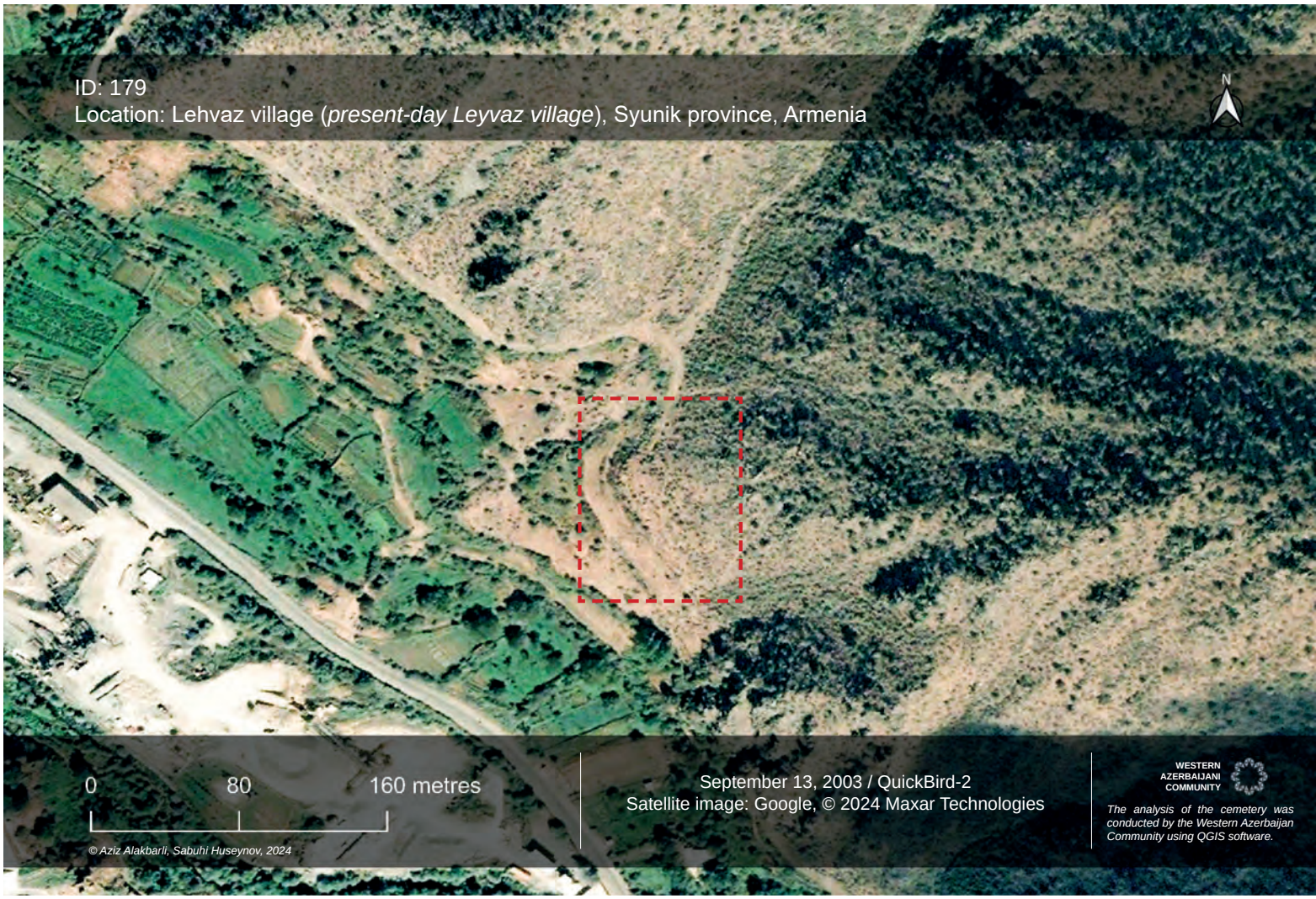
10. *QuickBird-2*, September 13, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45-A (Ordubad)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1977.


ID: 179
Location: Lehvaz village (*present-day Leyvaz village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 12, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 179
Location: Lehvaz village (*present-day Leyvaz village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 13, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 2011 to 2018

Status: OBLITERATED

Lok Village Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Lok village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Vardanidzor village (Armenian)
ID: 185 [MC-462], 38.955815, 46.213453

Lok was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located south of the confluence of the Bughakar and Meghri rivers. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. The village was originally known as Lak (*in Azerbaijani: Läk*). Lok village was originally located approximately 3 km northeast of its current location and was composed of Ashaghi (Lower) Lok and Yukhari (Upper) Lok. Beginning in the first half of the 19th century, these villages came to be known as First and Second Vartanazur.[1] According to the 1908 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), *951 Azerbaijanis* (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) lived in First Vartanazur, while *439 Azerbaijanis* resided in Second Vartanazur.[2] In the 1914 edition of the Caucasian Calendar, only Second Vartanazur was recorded, with a population of 1,053 Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[3]

From May 28, 1918, onward, the villages of First and Second Vartanazur, which had previously been part of the Meghri village commune[4] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, were incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[5] In the autumn of 1918, the villages came under Armenian attack, during which 384 villagers were killed with particular cruelty. The survivors from both villages were forced to flee, and the villages were occupied and destroyed by Armenians.[6] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1921, 177 Azerbaijanis did not return to live in the ruined villages, but instead settled in a newly established village named Vartanazur, located at the confluence of the Bughakar and Meghri rivers.[7] The ruins of First Vartanazur and Second Vartanazur, which had been destroyed by Armenians, remained on elevated terrain to the east of the present village site (coordinates: First Vartanazur – 38.999528, 46.244667; Second Vartanazur – 38.999536, 46.244664).

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, all Azerbaijani residents of Vartanazur village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

The cemetery of Vartanazur village also served as the burial ground for the residents of Amrakar (Amragar), one of the Azerbaijani villages established after 1922. This village was dissolved in the 1930s, and its population was relocated to Vartanazur. During the Soviet period, the village was renamed Vardanidzor.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 12, 1982[9] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.3 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and September 13, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results reveal that earthmoving activities had been carried out around the cemetery. The authors believe that these earthmoving operations were carried out to supply soil for the construction of a road built along the bank of the Meghri river, approximately 200 meters west of the old road. Therefore, the areas leading toward the new road were terraced. Based on the 2003 imagery, it was determined that significant destruction had occurred in the cemetery by that time.

However, a comparison of satellite imagery dated 2003 and August 31, 2011[11] (Maxar) did not reveal any noticeable structural changes to the cemetery. In August 2018, a large wildfire was found to have hit the forested area at the foot of the mountain, to the east of the Vartanazur–Lehvaz road. The fire affected an area of 44 hectares, including the cemetery itself. This intense fire caused further serious damage to the cemetery, which had already been largely destroyed in earlier years (Images Nos. 1–2).

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located between Lehvaz and Vartanazur villages, near the ruins of Amrakar village, on the western side of the old road. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1931 (1:50,000 scale)12, 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[13], and 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 104.
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5. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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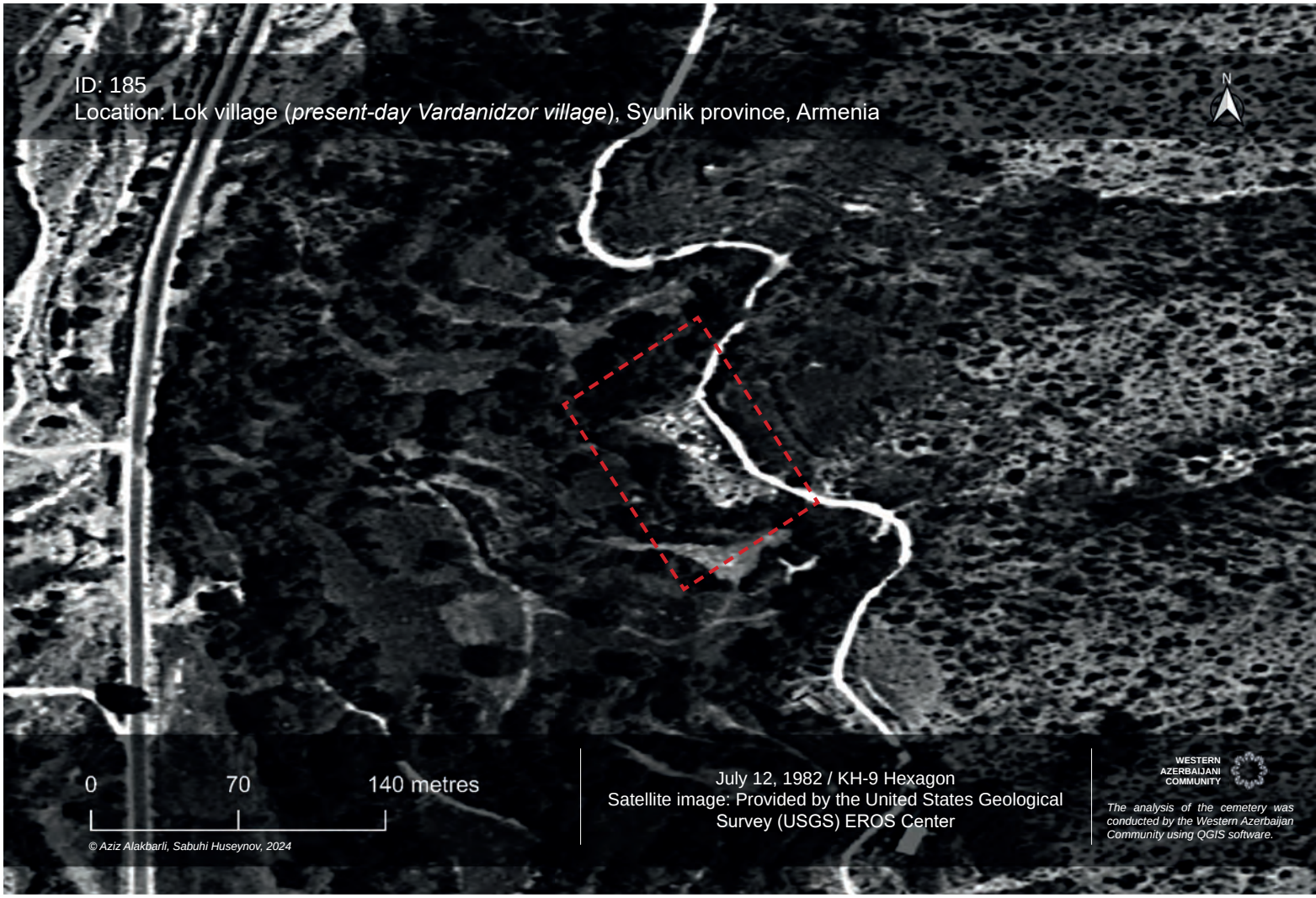
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
8. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 230.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-200631A018*, July 12, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
10. QuickBird-2, September 13, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. August 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. Управление Военных Топографов РККА, J-38-45-A (*Ордубад*) [map], 1:50,000. 1931.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45 (Ordubad)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, *J-38-45-A (Ordubad)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1977.


ID: 185
Location: Lok village (*present-day Vardanidzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 12, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 185
Location: Lok village (*present-day Vardanidzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 13, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 185
Location: Lok village (*present-day Vardanidzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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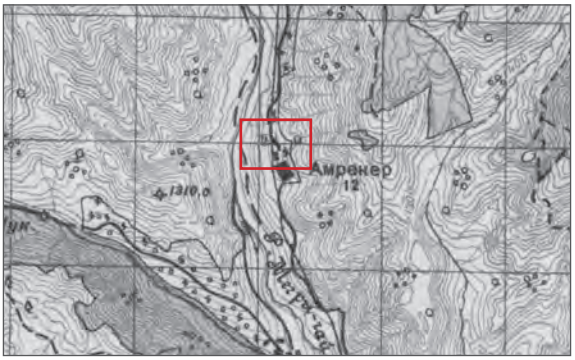
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 2011 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 185
Location: Lok village (*present-day Vardanidzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
70
140 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 2, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

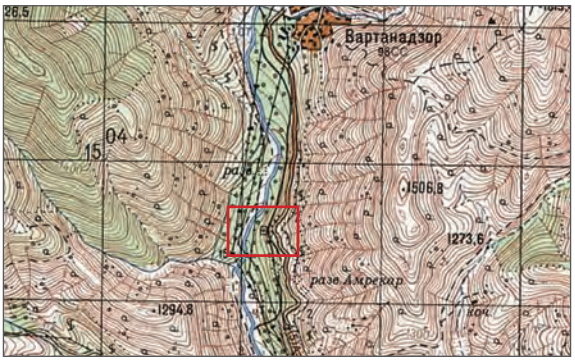


1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1977

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1977 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



POST-2018 FIRE PHOTOGRAPHS:

© Ecolur, 2019

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Marziyit Village Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Aldara village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Alvank village (Armenian)
ID: 181 [MC-231], 38.936484, 46.354214

Marziyit was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located east of Aldara village. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the first half of the 19th century as a Muslim settlement.[1] Other recorded variants of the name include Marza, Marzgat, Marzeit, and Marzkit. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 751 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Marziyit village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In the spring of 1918, Marziyit village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. In 1923–1924, 34 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] However, the leadership of the Armenian SSR obstructed the return of the broader Azerbaijani population, who had previously been forcibly displaced from the village. As a result, part of the population settled in Azerbaijan, while others took refuge in the present-day territory of Iran.[7] During the Soviet period, Marziyit village was dissolved, and the small number of returnees were relocated to Aldara village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On November 28, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents who had relocated from Marziyit village to Aldara village, along with the population of Aldara itself, took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated March 29, 1978[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery was located approximately 50 meters southeast of the Aldara village secondary school, at the foot of a high hill, and several tombstones were identified on the site. Due to the limited resolution of the satellite imagery, it was not possible to determine the boundaries of the cemetery. However, the presence of new tombstones in the area as of 1978 suggests that the cemetery continued to be used and visited in subsequent years.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1978 and September 13, 2003[9] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. In the latter imagery, the use of heavy machinery for earthmoving operations in the area was identified. An analysis of the vegetation cover suggests that destruction in the area likely occurred in the early 1990s.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003, 2011[10], and 2024[11] (Airbus) confirms that the site was obliterated many years ago. The analysis conducted by the authors further established that the area is currently undergoing a process of natural vegetation regeneration.

Thus, the satellite imagery analysis demonstrates that the cemetery of Marziyit village was obliterated over the course of many years as a result of Armenian aggression and earthmoving operations. The damage inflicted upon the cemetery was not limited to physical destruction, but also constituted an act of vandalism aimed at erasing the region's cultural and historical heritage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the east of Aldara village, 50 meters southeast of Aldara secondary school. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1941 (1:100,000 scale)[12], 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[13], and 1978 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1978 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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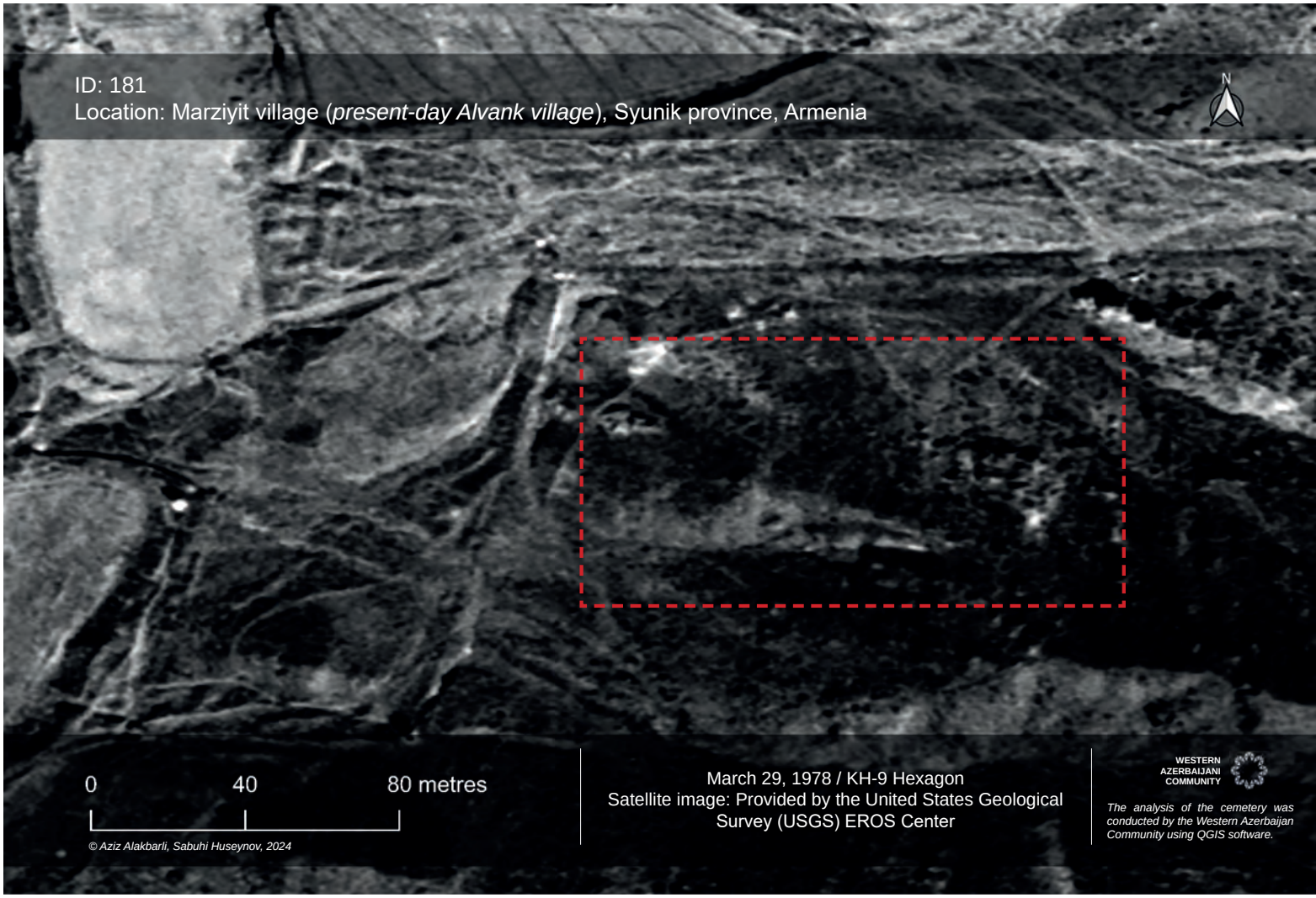
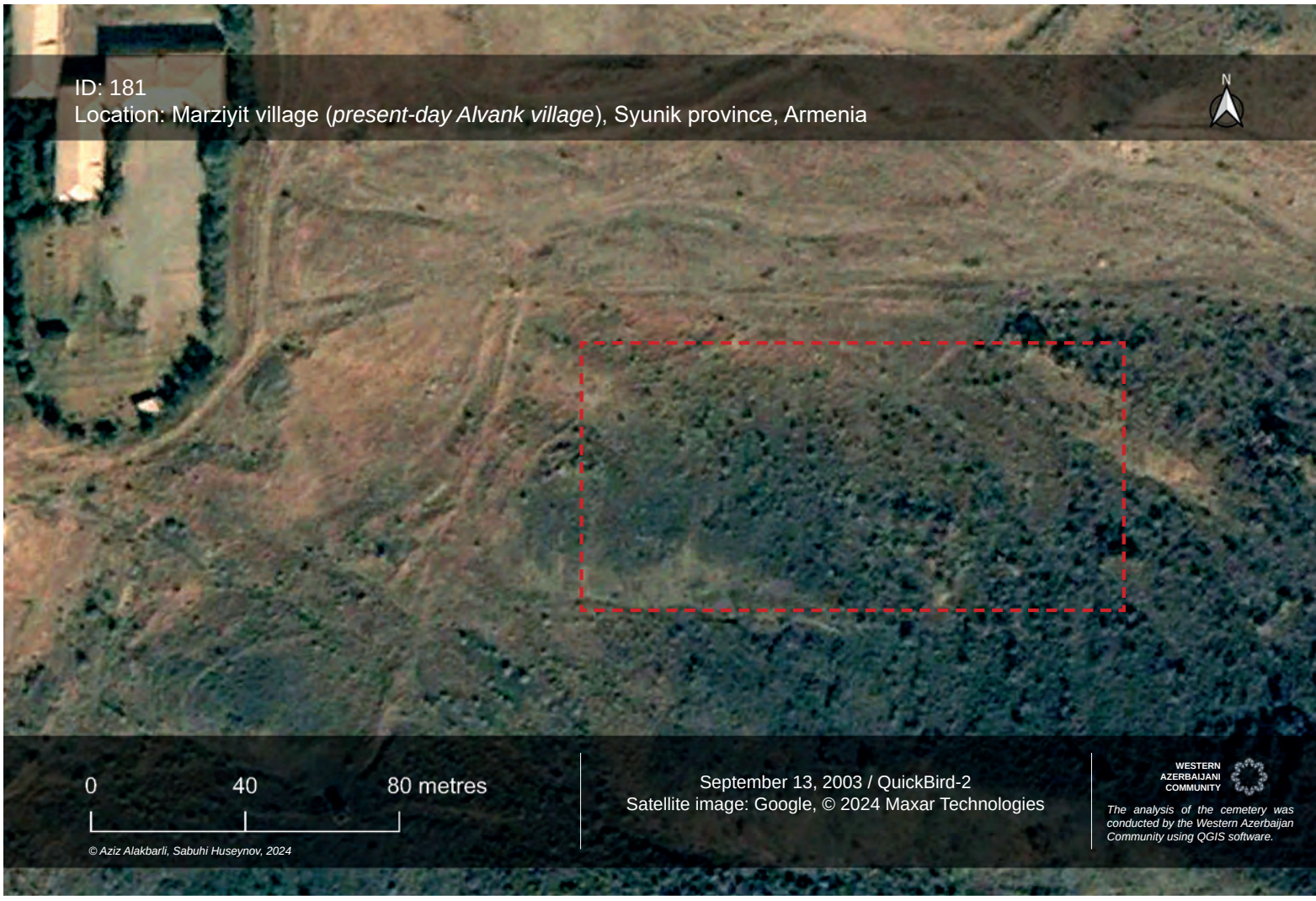
7. Musa Urud. *Zängäzur toponimläri* (Baku: Nurlar Näshriyyatï, 2013), 243.
8. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1214-100121F020*, March 29, 1978, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. September 13, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. July 31, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. April 29, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
12. General'nyĭ Shtab Krasnoi Armii, J-38-45 (*Ordubad*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1949.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-45-B (*Niuvadi*) [map], scale 1:50,000,1977.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-45 (*Ordubad*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1978.


ID: 181
Location: Marziyit village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
March 29, 1978 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 181
Location: Marziyit village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 13, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 181
Location: Marziyit village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2011
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 181
Location: Marziyit village (*present-day Alvank village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 29, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

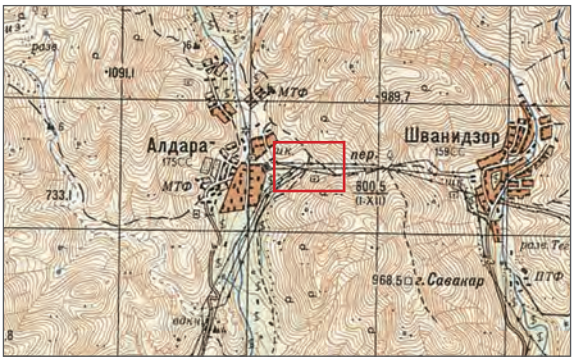
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1941

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

1977

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1977 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1978

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

Google © 2024, Airbus, 2024

From 2020 to 2022

Status: DESTROYED

Nuvadi Village First Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Nuvadi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Nrnadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 023 [MC-009], 38.919582, 46.433267

Nuvadi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Araz river, southeast of Giyasli mountain. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,072 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Nuvadi village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 662 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] From that point onward, Nuvadi village, which was part of Jabrayil *uezd* of the Azerbaijan SSR, became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR. Nuvadi village was incorporated into the Meghri *uezd* of the Armenian SSR against the will of its residents by the decision of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian SFSR dated February 18, 1929.[7] This decision was formally ratified many years later by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR on May 9, 1969.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On August 8, 1991, the Azerbaijani residents of Nuvadi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Nuvadi village was renamed Nrnadzor.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 12, 1982[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery covered an area of 0.45 hectares. It was identified by its heterogeneous surface, and in some areas, tombstones were identifiable by their heterogeneous, patchy surface. The cemetery was located on the northern side of the road leading to the village of Shvanidzor.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1982 and April 15, 2011[11] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, the cemetery retained its structure and remained intact between 1989 and 2011. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and 2020[12] (CNES/Airbus) showed that no significant changes occurred in the area within this timeframe.

However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2020, 2022[13], and April 29, 2024[14] (Airbus) revealed that, within this timeframe, the tombstones located in the northern and western parts of the cemetery had been subjected to severe destruction. In areas near the southern section of the site, earthmoving activities were carried out using heavy machinery.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located at the eastern entrance of the village, on the left side of the road leading from Astazur village toward Nuvadi village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[15] and 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 167.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
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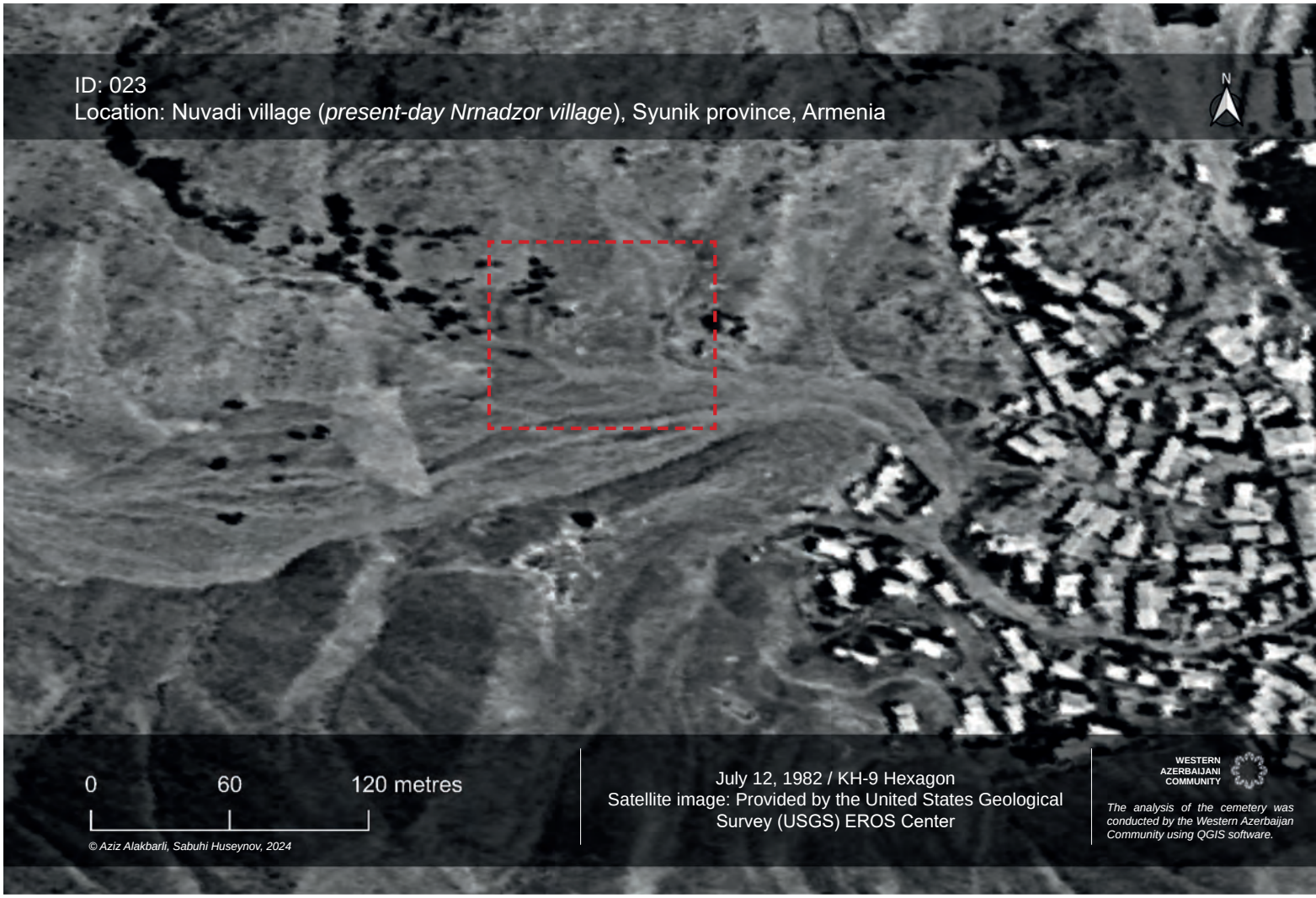
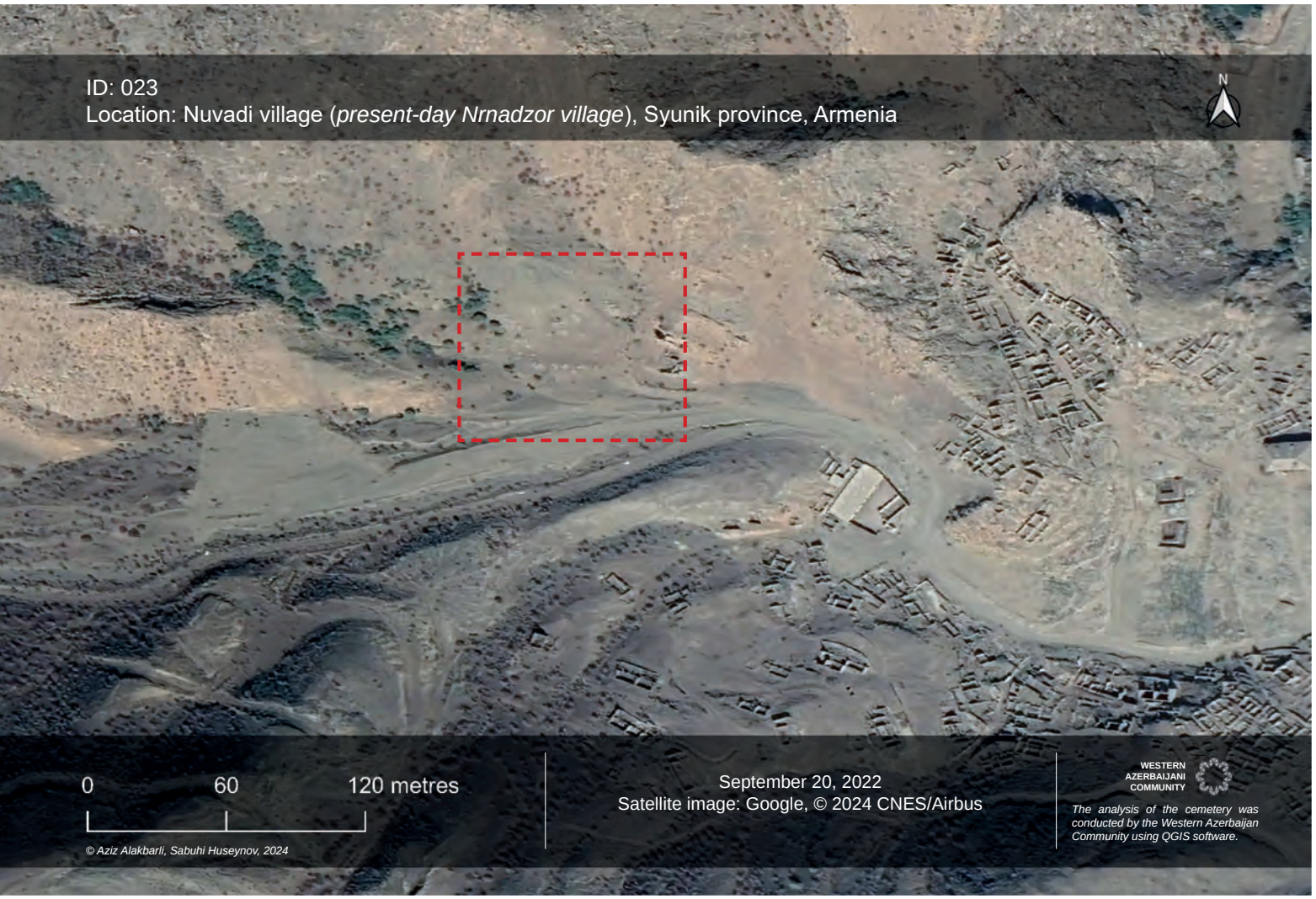
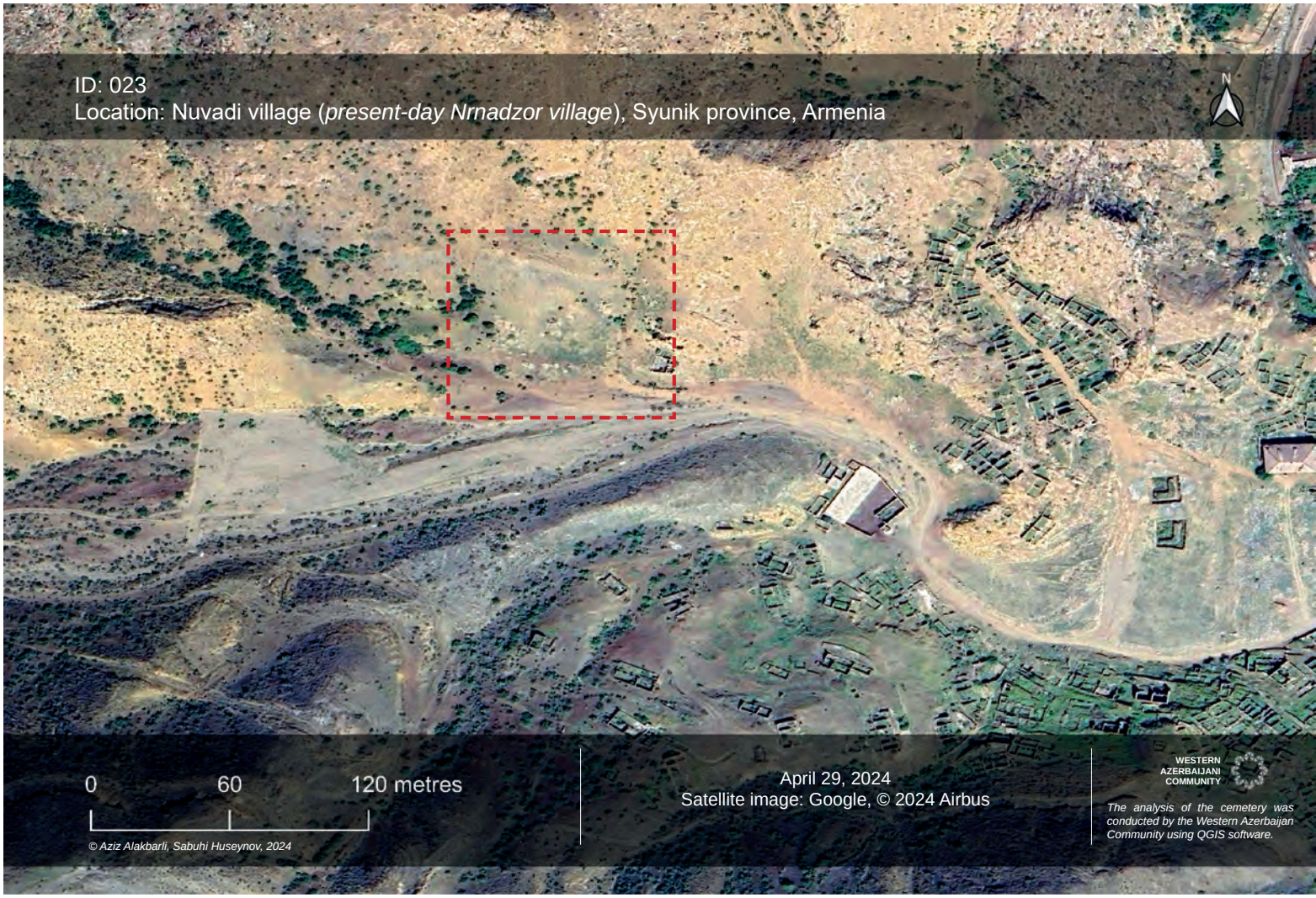
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-200631A018*, July 12, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *GeoEye*-1, April 15, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. Febrary 12, 2020, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. September 20, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. April 29, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
15. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-45-B (Niuvadi)* [map], 1:50,000 (1977).
16. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-45 (Ordubad)* [map], scale 1:100,000, 1978.


ID: 023
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 12, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 023
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 15, 2011 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 023
Location: Nuvadi village (present-day Nrnadzor village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 12, 2020
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

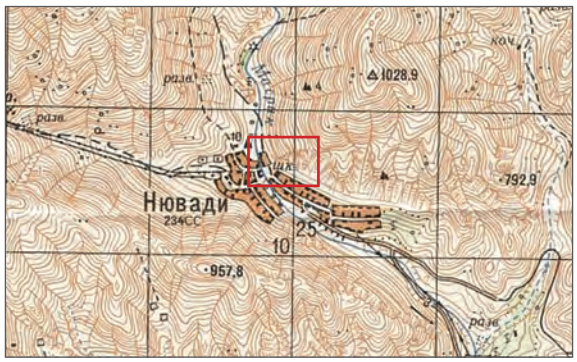

ID: 023
Location: Nuvadi village (present-day Nrnadzor village), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 023
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 29, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

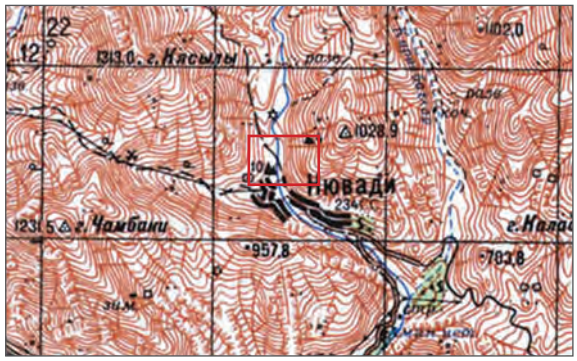
1977

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1977 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1978

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2011

Status: OBLITERATED

Nuvadi Village Second Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Nuvadi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Nrnadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 128 [MC-230], 38.918669, 46.433569

Nuvadi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri mahal of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Araz river, southeast of Giyasli mountain. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,072 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Nuvadi village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 662 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] From that point onward, Nuvadi village, which was part of Jabrayil *uezd* of the Azerbaijan SSR, became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR. Nuvadi village was incorporated into the Meghri *uezd* of the Armenian SSR against the will of its residents by the decision of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian SFSR dated February 18, 1929.[7] This decision was formally ratified many years later by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR on May 9, 1969.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On August 8, 1991, the Azerbaijani residents of Nuvadi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Nuvadi village was renamed Nrnadzor.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 12, 1982[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of approximately 0.4 hectares, with tombstones primarily identified in the central part.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1982 and April 15, 2011[11] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that severe destruction occurred in the central part of the cemetery at some point between 1989 and 2011. As a result of this destruction, tombstone fragments were found scattered across the area. Tracks from heavy machinery were identified, particularly in the northern section, indicating that the destruction had been carried out deliberately. An analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and February 12, 2020[12] (CNES/Airbus) confirmed that the condition of the site had remained stable as of the latter date. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2020 and September 20, 2022[13] (CNES/Airbus) revealed that, during the period between these dates, some of the previously visible tombstone remnants in parts of the cemetery had been removed. A comparative analysis of the vegetation cover also confirmed the clearing activity and the disappearance of plant life from the area.

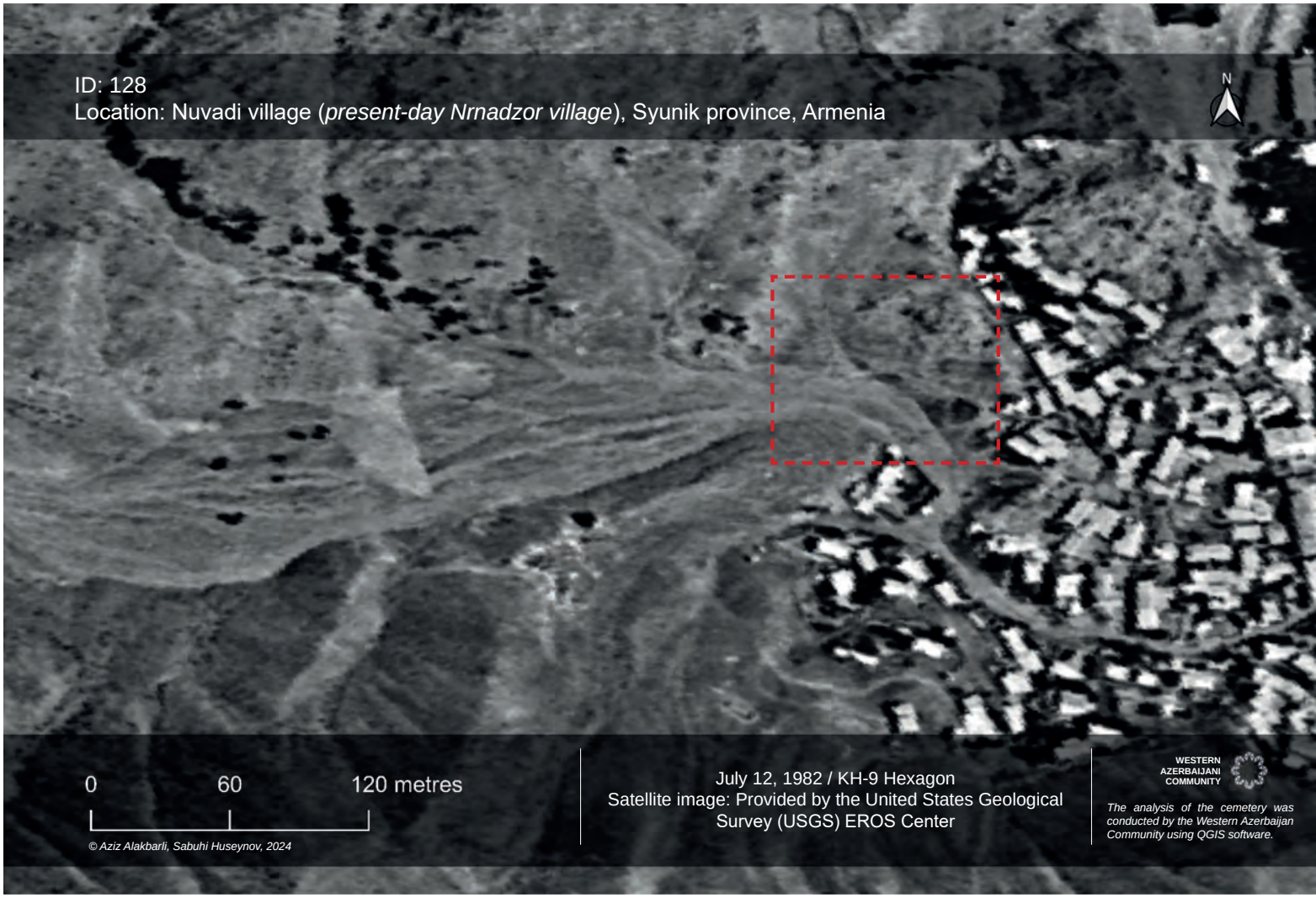
Thus, following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village, the second cemetery of Nuvadi village was subjected to severe acts of vandalism and was obliterated by 2011.

GEOLOCATION:

It is located at the entrance of the village, on the right side of the road leading to Nuvadi village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 142.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 167.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *O vooruzhennom napadenii i razgrome seleniya Nyuvady Zangezurskogo uyezda,* ARDA, f.1061, op.1, d. 38, ll.5–6.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
7. *Protokol No. 3 zasedaniya Prezidiuma Zakavkazskogo Tsentral'nogo Komiteta Soveta Rabochikh, Krest'yanskikh, Krasnoarmeiskikh i Matrosskikh deputatov ot February 18, 1929,* ARDA, f.379, op.3, d. 2035, ll.1–4.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 260.
9. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 55.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-200631A018*, July 12, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *GeoEye-1*, April 15, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. Febrary 12, 2020, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. September 20, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-45-B (Niuvadi)* [map], 1:50,000 (1977).


ID: 128
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 12, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 128
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 15, 2011 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 128
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 12, 2020
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 128
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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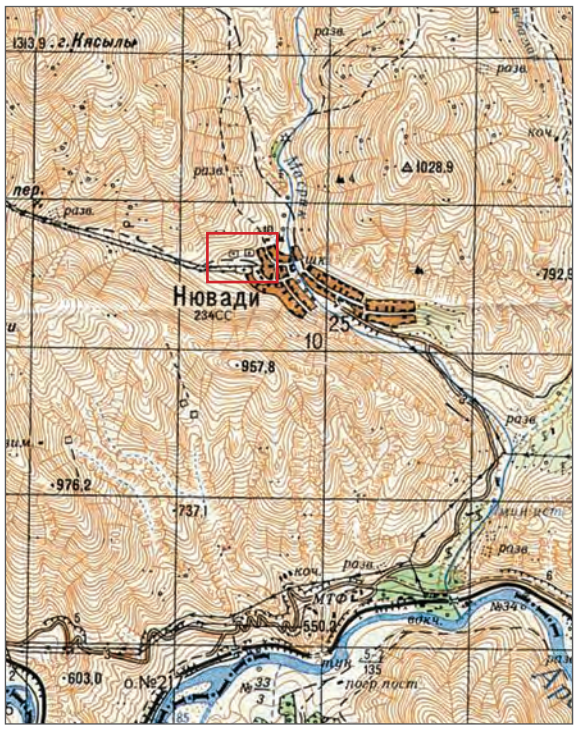
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 128
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 29, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1977

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1977 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 2020 to 2022

Status: OBLITERATED

Nuvadi Village Third Cemetery

Location: Meghri district, Nuvadi village (Azerbaijani) / Syunik province, Nrnadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 200 [MC-552], 38.919272, 46.435152

Nuvadi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Meghri *mahal* of the Zangezur region, located on the left bank of the Araz river, southeast of Giyasli mountain. It was incorporated into Meghri district on September 9, 1930. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,072 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Nuvadi village, which had previously been part of the Astazur village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Zangezur *uezd* of the Elizavetpol Governorate, was incorporated into the Zangezur *uezd* of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1918, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the western part of the Zangezur *uezd* was transferred to the Armenian SSR by the Soviet-Bolshevik regime, against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Subsequently, in 1921, 662 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled.[6] From that point onward, Nuvadi village, which was part of Jabrayil *uezd* of the Azerbaijan SSR, became a *disputed* territory between the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR. Nuvadi village was incorporated into the Meghri *uezd* of the Armenian SSR against the will of its residents by the decision of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian SFSR dated February 18, 1929.[7] This decision was formally ratified many years later by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR on May 9, 1969.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On August 8, 1991, the Azerbaijani residents of Nuvadi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8] By the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated July 4, 2006, Nuvadi village was renamed *Nrnadzor*.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 12, 1982[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of approximately 0.5 to 0.6 hectares, with tombstones identifiable by their heterogeneous, patchy surface pattern.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1982 and April 15, 2011[11] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, destruction was identified in the eastern part of the cemetery between 1989 and 2011; however, the evidence suggests that this damage had occurred many years earlier. This conclusion was also supported by an analysis of the vegetation cover in the area.

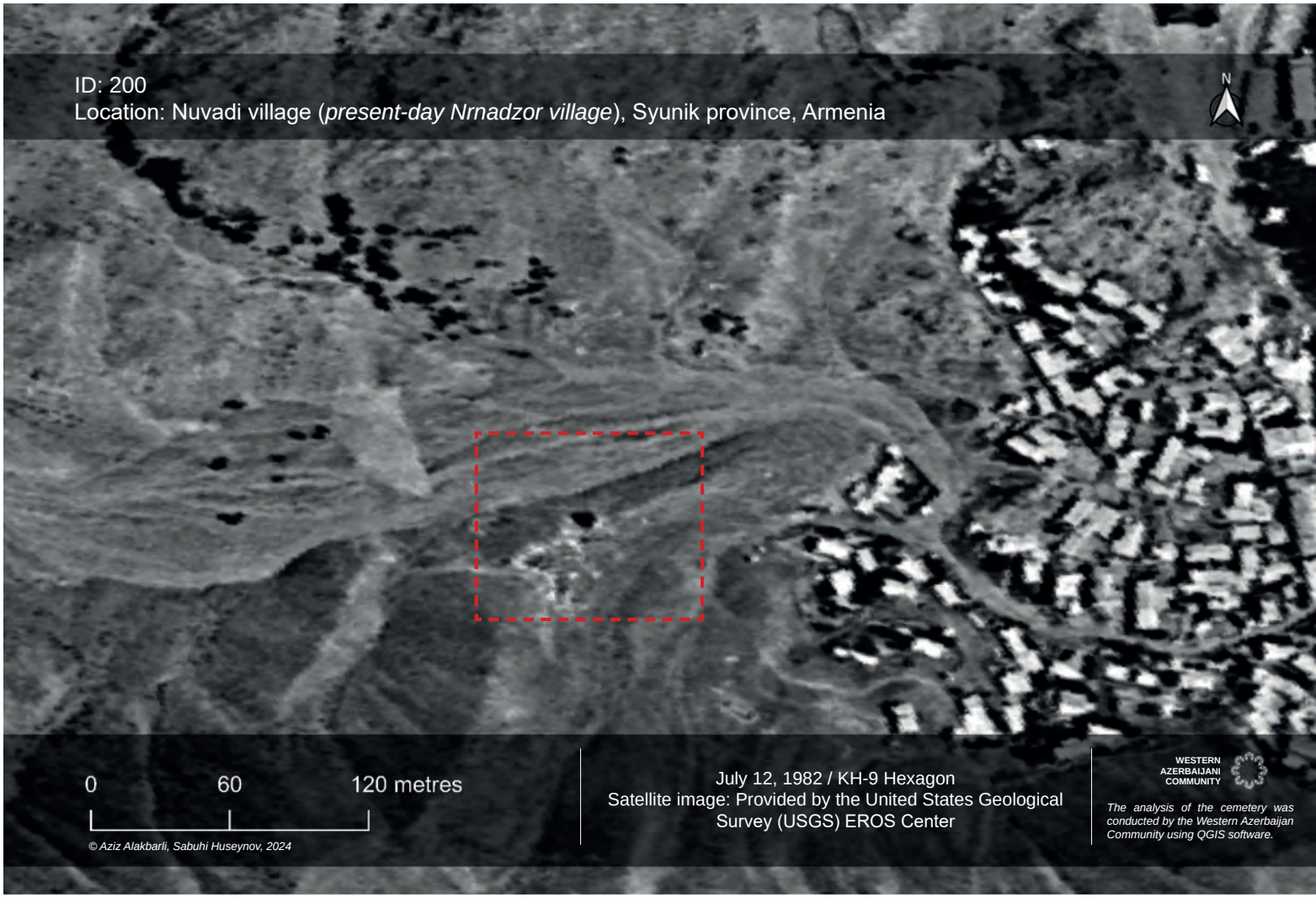
A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and February 12, 2020[12] (CNES/Airbus) showed that the condition of the cemetery remained stable during this period. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2020 and September 20, 2022[13] (CNES/Airbus) identified earthmoving and leveling activities in the area. Apart from a few damaged tombstones in the central part of the cemetery, the remnants of tombstones in the eastern section had been cleared. The presence of bulldozed tombstone debris, the removal of vegetation, and other signs of earthmoving indicated that the destruction was carried out deliberately.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located at the entrance of the village, on the left side of the road from Shvanidzor village to Nuvadi village, to the east of the first cemetery. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1977 (1:50,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1977 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 142.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 167.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 56.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *O vooruzhennom napadenii i razgrome seleniya Nyuvady Zangezurskogo uyezda,* ARDA, f.1061, op.1, d. 38, ll.5–6.
6. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 134-135.
7. *Protokol No. 3 zasedaniya Prezidiuma Zakavkazskogo Tsentral'nogo Komiteta Soveta Rabochikh, Krest'yanskikh, Krasnoarmeiskikh i Matrosskikh deputatov ot February 18, 1929,* ARDA, f.379, op.3, d. 2035, ll.1–4.
8. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 260.
9. *Vandalizm: Tarikhi Adlara Qarshï Soyqïrïmï,* comp. Nazim Mustafa, 2nd rev. ed. (Baku: Turxan NPB, 2014), 55.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-200631A018*, July 12, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. GeoEye-1, April 15, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. Febrary 12, 2020, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. September 20, 2022, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, *J-38-45-B (Niuvadi)* [map], scale 1:50,000, 1977.


ID: 200
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
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120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 12, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 200
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 15, 2011 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 200
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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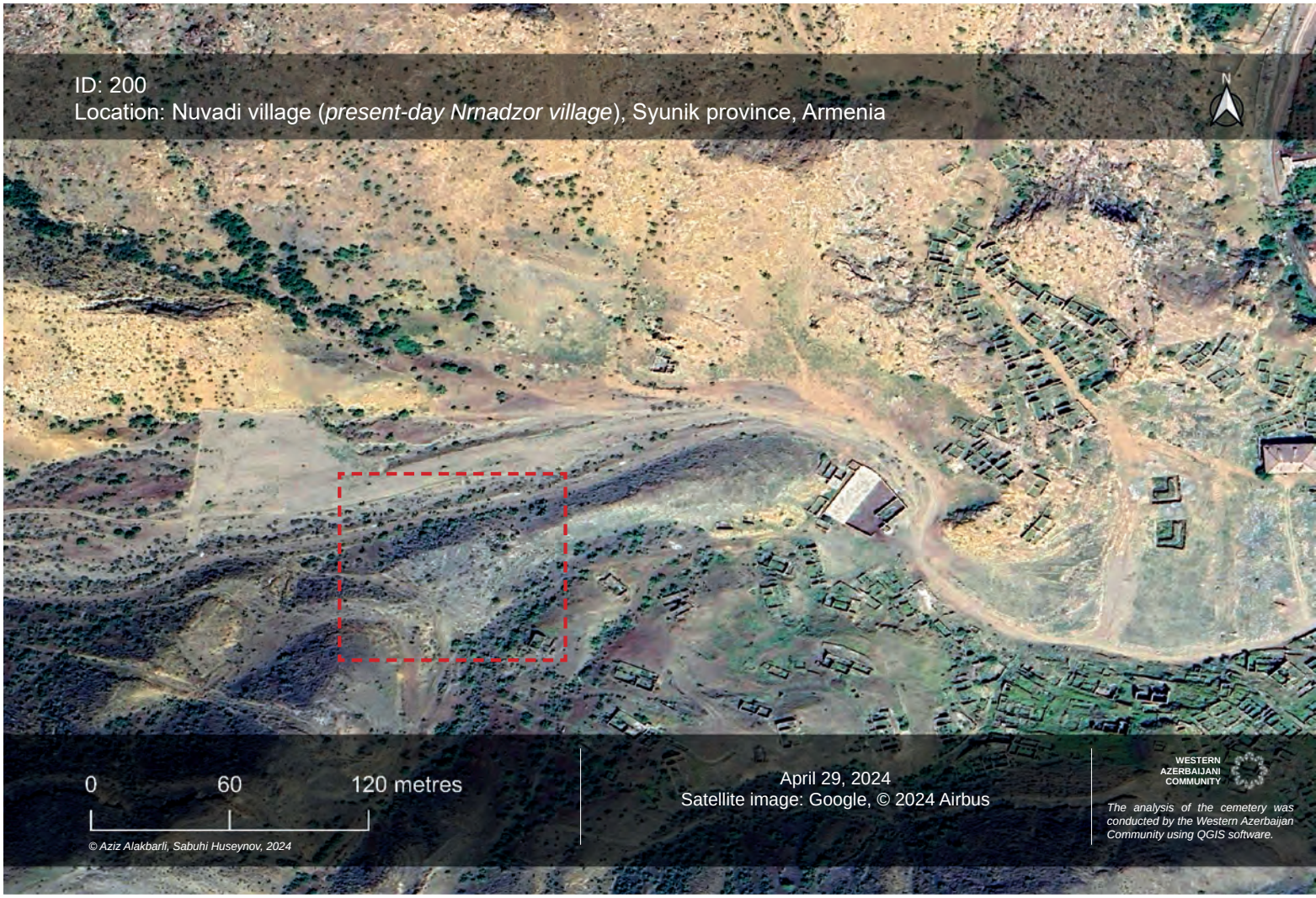
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 12, 2020
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 200
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 20, 2022
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 200
Location: Nuvadi village (*present-day Nrnadzor village*), Syunik province, Armenia
N
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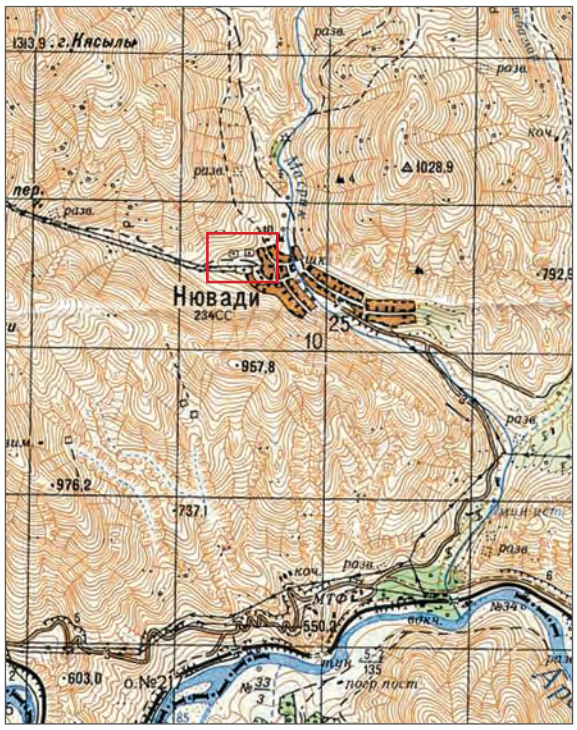
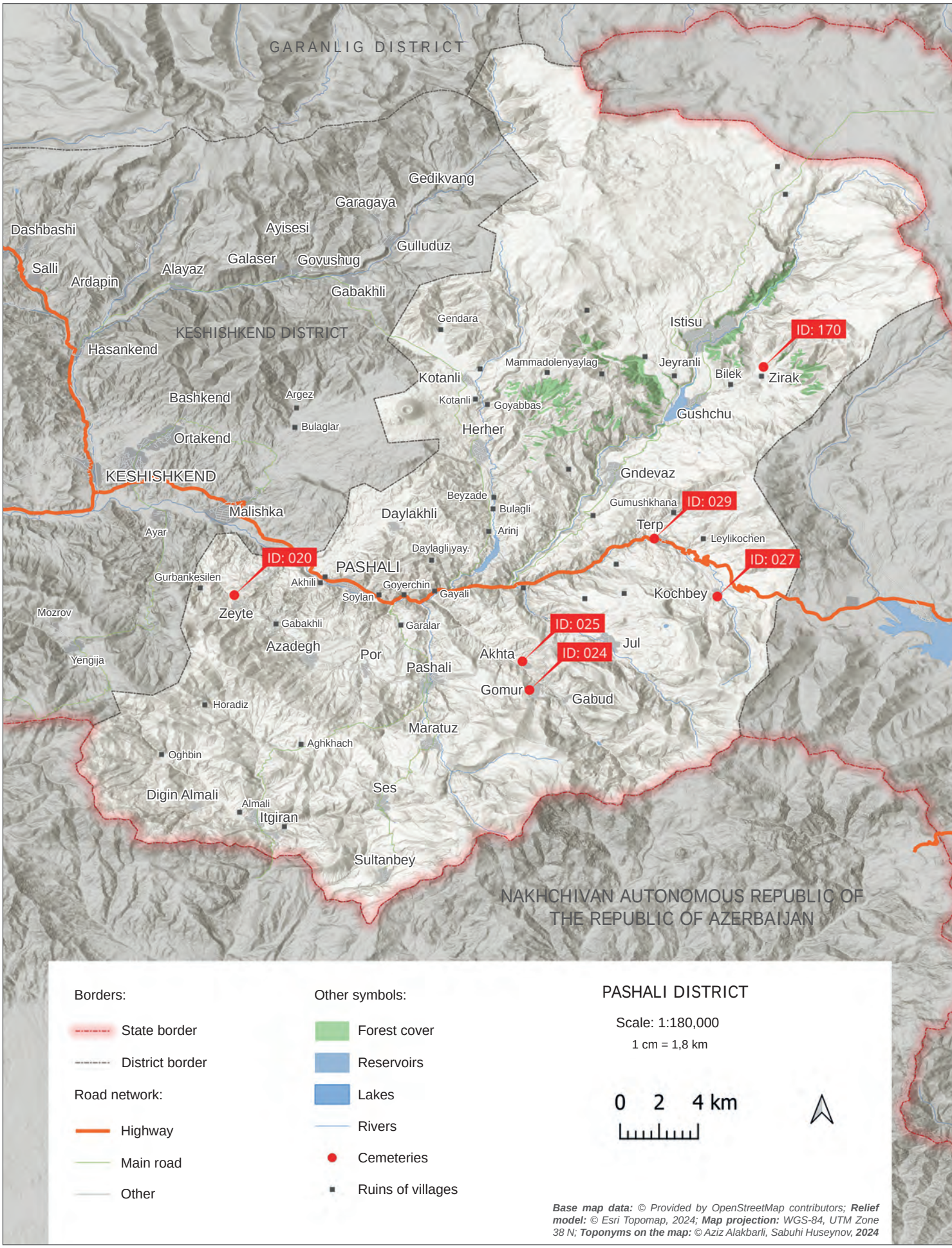
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 29, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1977

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1977 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.




GARANLIG DISTRICT
Gedikvang
Garagaya
Dashbashi
Ayisesi
Gulluduz
Salli
Galaser
Govushug
Alayaz
Ardapin
Gabakhli
KESHISHKEND DISTRICT
Gendara
Istisu
ID: 170
Hasankend
Mammadolenyaylag
Jeyranli
Bilek
Zirak
Kotanli
Bashkend
Argez
Kotanli
Goyabbas
Gushchu
Bulaglar
Herher
Ortakend
Gndevaz
KESHISHKEND
Beyzade
Gumushkhana
ID: 029
Malishka
Daylakhli
Bulagli
Terp
Ayar
Arinj
Leylikochen
Daylagli yay.
ID: 020
PASHALI
ID: 027
Gurbankesilen
Akhili
Goyerchin
Soylan
Gayali
Kochbey
Mozrov
Zeyte
Gabakhli
Garalar
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Azadegh
Jul
Yengija
Por
Akhta
ID: 024
Pashali
Gomur
Gabud
Horadiz
Maratuz
Aghkhach
Oghbin
Ses
Digin Almali
Almali
Itgiran
Sultanbey
NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
PASHALI DISTRICT
Scale: 1:180,000
1 cm = 1,8 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

PASHALI DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Daralayaz *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Pashali district.
Establishment date: October 15, 1931.
Area: 1,173 sq. km.

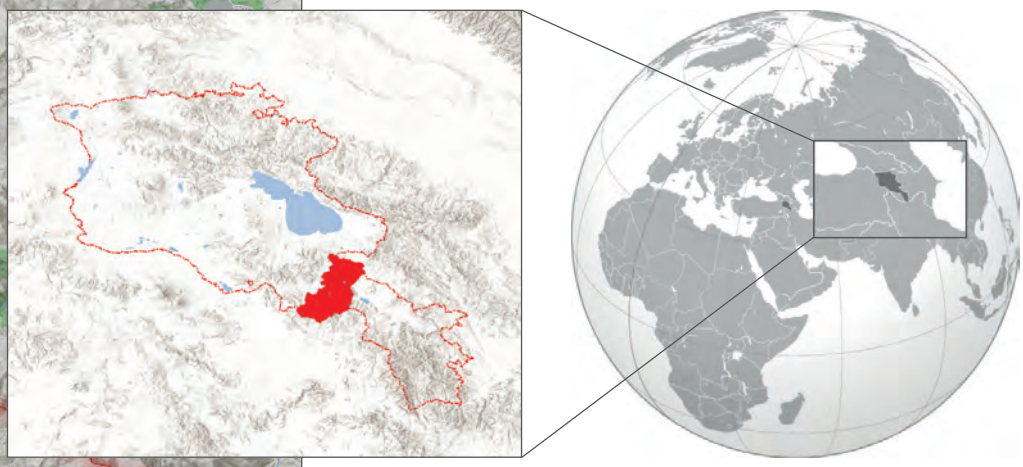
The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Soylan, located 139 km from Iravan.

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated October 12, 1956, Soylan district was renamed Azizbeyov district, and in 1991, it was renamed Vayk district.

According to 1970 records, the district included one city under direct republican administration, one urban-type settlement, 11 village councils, and 21 residential settlements. The district population (*excluding Safolar city and Gechid village, A.A., S.H.*) was recorded as 15,300, with 2,700 residing in urban areas and 12,600 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Akhta, Gabud, Gulustan, Kochbak, Kotanli, Terp, Zeyta, Aghkend, Jul, Gomur, Istisu, Gurdgulakh, and Chayli.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Vayots Dzor province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.



From 1994 to 1997

Status: OBLITERATED

Akhta Village Cemetery

Location: Pashali district, Akhta village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Armenian)
ID: 025 [MC-011], 39.6477203, 45.5649983

Akhta was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the right bank of the Gabudchay river, a left tributary of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Pashali district on October 15, 1931, Azizbeyov district on October 12, 1956, and Vayk district in 1991. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *4*58 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Akhta village, which had previously been part of the Martiroz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the *Sharur-Daralayaz uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In late June 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Akhta village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 129 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[7] In 1952, 174 residents of the village were deported to Yevlakh district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] However, some of them were unable to adapt to the climate in the territory of Azerbaijan and eventually returned.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On December 4, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Akhta village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery covered an area of 0.62 hectares. Tombstones were identified, along with a mausoleum in the northwestern part.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 20, 2010[11] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings indicate that the cemetery underwent significant changes between 1989 and 2010.

The tombstones identified at the center of the cemetery in Hexagon imagery disappeared. Severe destruction was identified in the northern and northwestern parts of the area, and it was determined that the mausoleum located in the northwestern section had been demolished down to its foundation. Many of the tombstones had their grave slabs dislodged, and fragments of tombstones were scattered across the site. In addition, the village houses were looted, demolished, and dismantled for the removal of their materials. Only the foundations of these structures could be identified in the area.

To narrow down the timeframe and determine the likely period of destruction, the authors analyzed changes in vegetation in the area between 1989 and 2011. A sharp decline in NDVI values between 1994 and 1997 indicates that events occurred during this period that hindered vegetation growth.

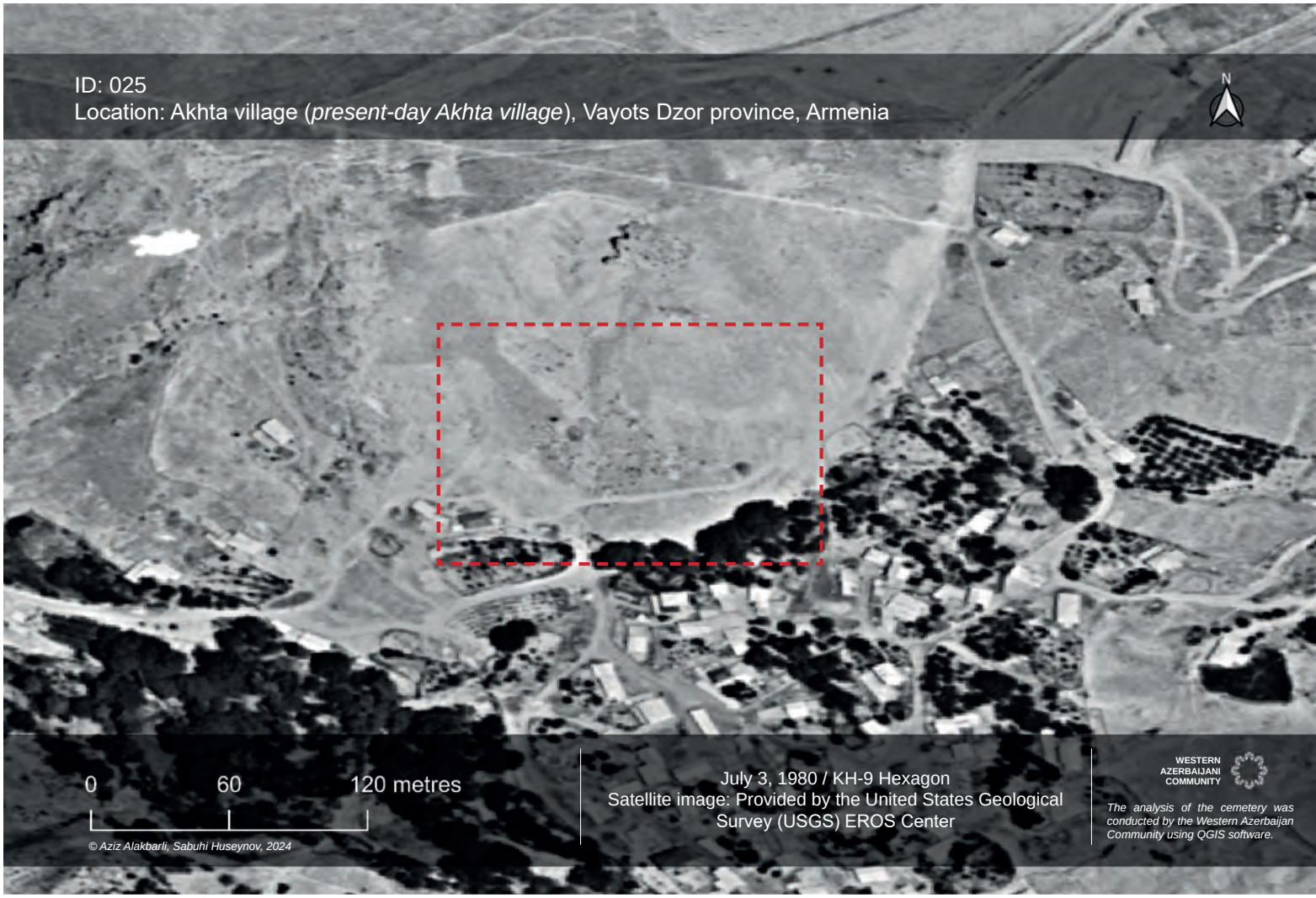
Thus, the cemetery fell victim to a destruction process estimated to have occurred between 1994 and 1997, indicating the deliberate eradication of historical heritage. The looting and destruction of village houses further confirms this conclusion. The entire village, along with its Azerbaijani cemetery, became yet another victim of the cultural genocide carried out against Azerbaijanis.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the north of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 45.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 93.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 129.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 158-159.
8. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013),* 635.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 370.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-2*, October 20, 2010, Maxar via Esri Map.
12. July 31, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-20-A (*Zaritap*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-20 (*Shakhbuz*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.


ID: 025
Location: Akhta village (*present-day Akhta village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

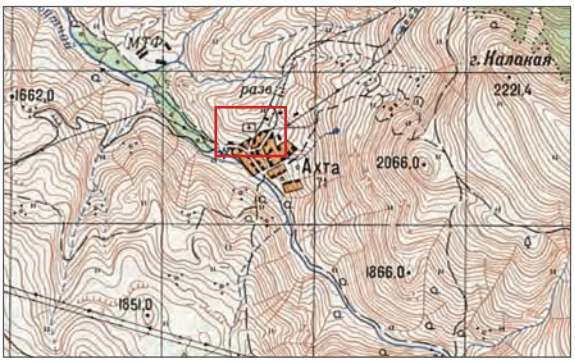
ID: 025
Location: Akhta village (*present-day Akhta village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 20, 2010 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 025
Location: Akhta village (*present-day Akhta village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

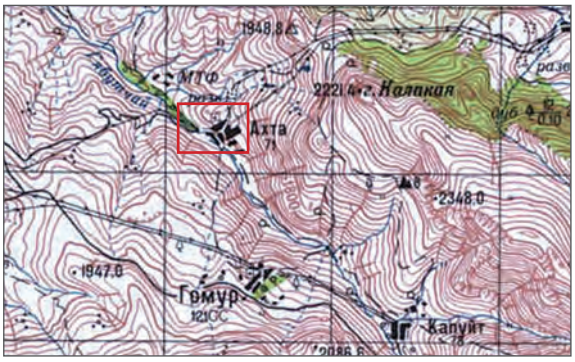
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1989 to 2010

Status: OBLITERATED

Gomur Village Cemetery

Location: Pashali district, Gomur village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Gomk village (Armenian)
ID: 024 [MC-010], 45.5692304, 39.6306594

Gomur was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the left bank of the Gabudchay river, a left tributary of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Pashali district on October 15, 1931, Azizbeyov district on October 12, 1956, and Vayk district in 1991. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the late 16th century, under the name Komur, as a Muslim settlement.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 365 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Gomur village, which had previously been part of the Martiroz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the *Sharur-Daralayaz uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In December 1919, Gomur village was subjected to an Armenian assault, during which 400 residents were killed. The surviving inhabitants were forced to abandon the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Gomur village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 155 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[7] In 1952, 55 residents of the village were deported to Yevlakh district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gomur village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gomur village was renamed Gomk.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.85 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and October 20, 2010[11] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2010. As of the date of the latter imagery, a dirt road approximately 85 meters in length had been constructed through the center of the cemetery. The northern section of the site had been cleared of tombstones.

To assess the extent of vandalism inflicted on the cemetery, a high-resolution drone image dated December 2, 2018[12], with a resolution of 7 cm, revealed that 18 grave slabs in the southern part of the cemetery had been subjected to acts of vandalism. All other graves in this section had been completely destroyed. Fragments of tombstones scattered around the site confirmed this. In the northwestern part of the cemetery, although the tombstones had been destroyed, the fragments of the demolished tombstones were still present on site. A transmission pole for a high-voltage line had been installed in this section.

The analysis of the 2018 drone image and the satellite image dated July 31, 2023[13] (Airbus) confirmed the continued presence of destruction at the site.

GEOLOCATION:

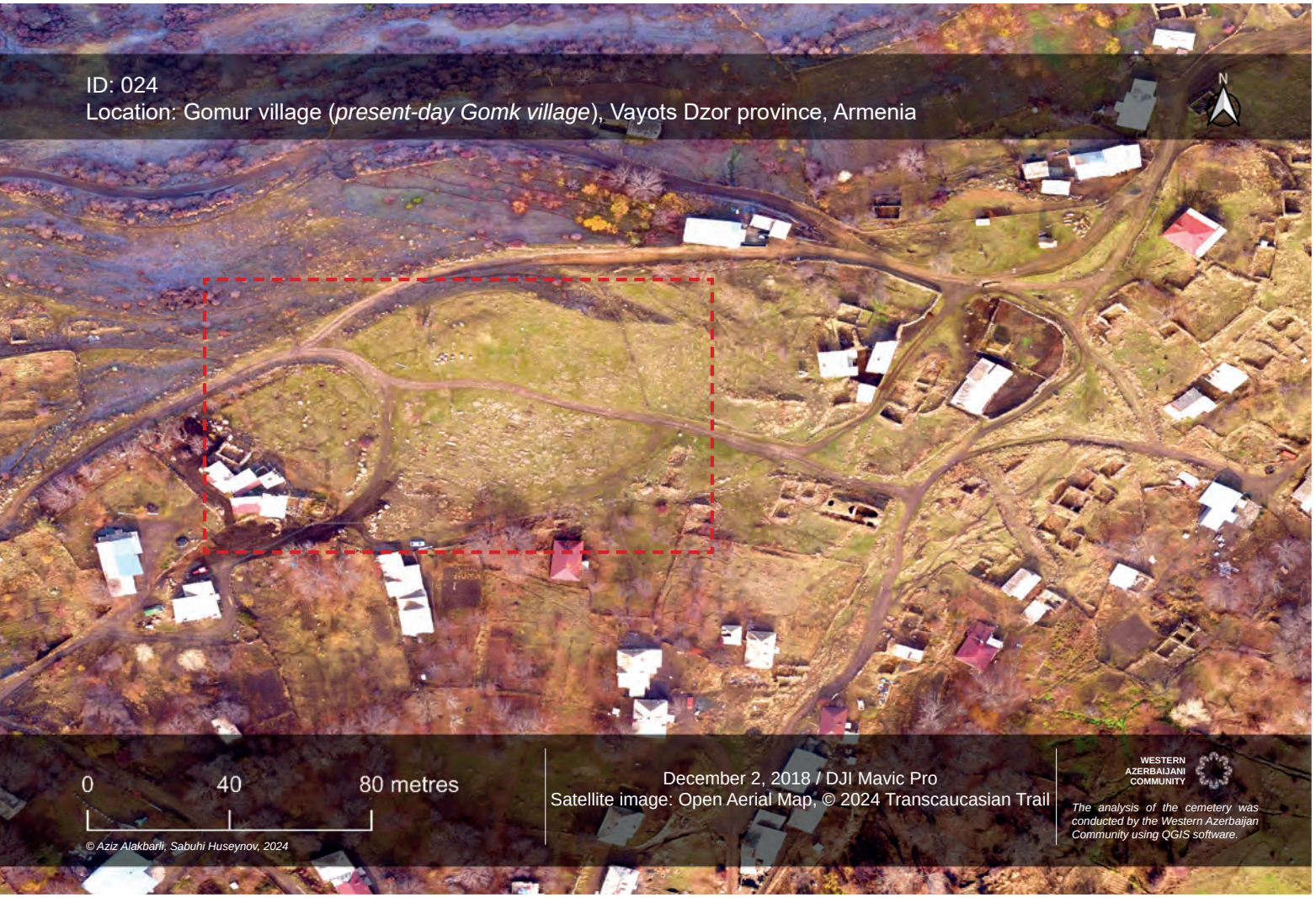
The cemetery was situated in the north of the village. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1975 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996),116.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 109.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 129.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95; original source: BOA,HR.SYS, no. 2878/76.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 158-159.
8. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 635; original source: ARDA, f.1984, op.9, d. 50-52.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *WorldView-2*, October 20, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
12. *DJI Mavic Pro*, December 02, 2018, OpenAreMap.
13. July 31, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-20-A (*Zaritap*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-20 (*Shakhbuz*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1975.

ID: 024
Location: Gomur village (*present-day Gomk village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 024
Location: Gomur village (*present-day Gomk village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
Dirt road
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 20, 2010 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

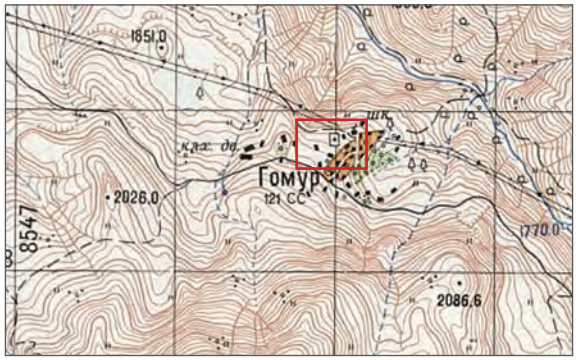

ID: 024
Location: Gomur village (*present-day Gomk village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
December 2, 2018 / DJI Mavic Pro
Satellite image: Open Aerial Map, © 2024 Transcaucasian Trail
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 024
Location: Gomur village (*present-day Gomk village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

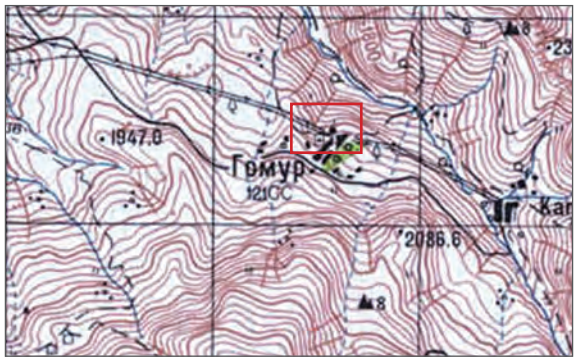
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1975

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024

From 1997 to 1998

Status: OBLITERATED

Kochbay Village Cemetery

Location: Pashali district, Kochbay village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Ughedzor village (Armenian)
ID: 027 [MC-013], 39.6862187, 45.6810831

Kochbay was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the bank of the Kochbaychay river, a right tributary of the Julchay river. It was incorporated into Pashali district on October 15, 1931, Azizbeyov district on October 12, 1956, and Vayk district in 1991. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the first half of the 18th century, under the name Gochubay, as a Muslim settlement.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 425 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Kochbay village, which had previously been part of the Gindivaz village commune[3] within 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate was recognized as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1919, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Kochbay village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 103 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. By 1931, the number of returnees had reached 365.[7] In 1952, 468 residents of the village were deported to Yevlakh district of the Azerbaijani SSR.[8] However, the deported population returned after a while and resettled in the village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, approximately 600 Azerbaijani residents of Kochbay village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Kochbay village was renamed Ughedzor.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.8 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and September 22, 2011[12] (WorldView-1) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2011. The tombstones were no longer visible, and traces of heavy machinery, as well as alterations to the soil surface, were identified in the area. These traces most likely resulted from the destruction of tombstones by heavy machinery operating within the cemetery (Images Nos. 1–2).

To narrow down the timeframe and determine the likely period of destruction, the authors analyzed changes in vegetation in the area between 1989 and 2011. A sharp decline in NDVI values beginning in 1997 indicated that events had occurred during this period that hindered vegetation growth in the area. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2011 and July 11, 2024[13] (Airbus) showed that the situation in the area remained unchanged.

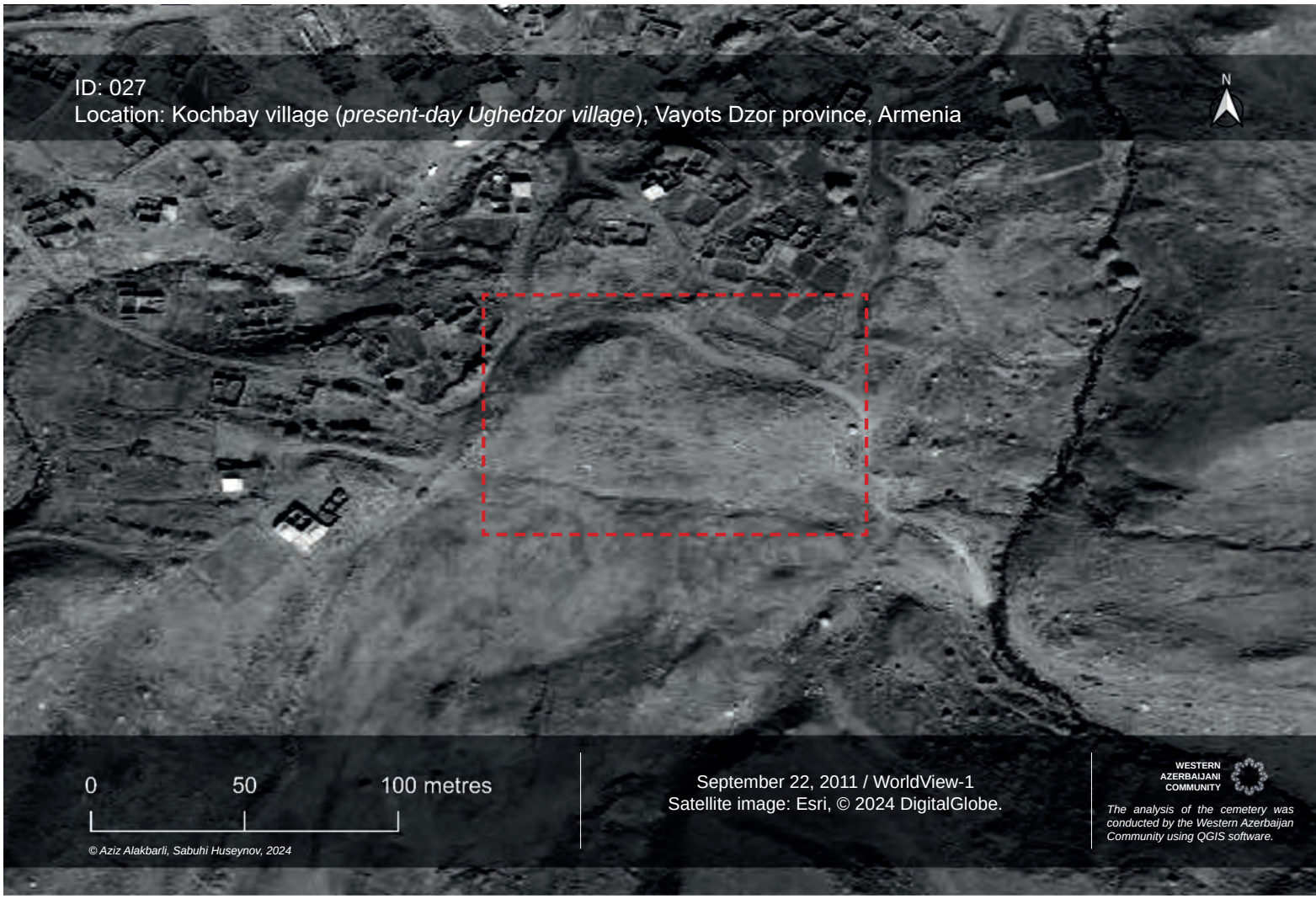
GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the south of the village, on elevated terrain. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[14] and 1974 (1:100,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Irävan Äyalätinin İjmal Däftäri,* comp., trans., and res. by Ziya Bunyadov and Husamäddin Mämmädov (Garamanlï) (Baku: Elm, 1996), 116.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 146.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 129.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95; original source: BOA,HR.SYS, no.2878/76.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 158-159.
8. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär*), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 635.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 366.
10. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 30.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *WorldView-1*, September 22, 2011, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. July 11, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-8-V (*Gndevaz*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-8 (*Dzhermuk*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1974.

ID: 027
Location: Kochbay village (present-day Ughedzor village), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 027
Location: Kochbay village (present-day Ughedzor village), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 22, 2011 / WorldView-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 027
Location: Kochbay village (*present-day Ughedzor village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 11, 2004
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

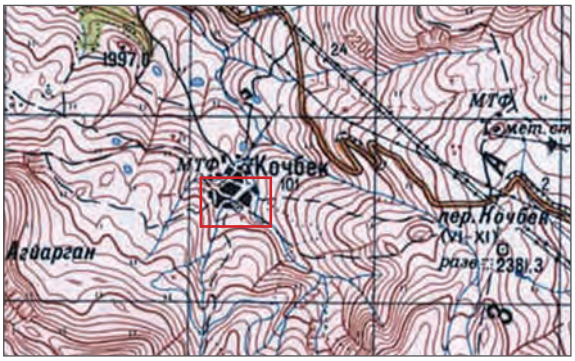
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1974

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Bnakavayr, 2024.

© Bnakavayr, 2024.

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Terp Village Cemetery

Location: Pashali district, Terp village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Saravan village (Armenian)
ID: 029 [MC-016], 39.7206731, 45.6434991

Terp was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located near the Terpchay river. It was incorporated into Pashali district on October 15, 1931, Azizbeyov district on October 12, 1956, and Vayk district in 1991. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the first half of the 13th century, under the name Derbn.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 384 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Terp village, which had previously been part of the *Gindivaz village commune*[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In June 1919, 285 residents of the village were killed during an Armenian attack. The surviving population was forced to leave the village.[5] A portion of this population took refuge in the city of Khojaly, located in the Karabakh region of the present-day Republic of Azerbaijan. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Terp within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 67 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, rebuilt it, and resettled. By 1931, the number of returnees had reached 4087. In 1949, 484 residents of the village were deported to the Ali Bayramli district of the Azerbaijani SSR.[8] In 1951, another 85 individuals were deported to the Barda district of the Azerbaijani SSR.[9] However, a portion of the village population later returned and continued to live in the village. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated February 27, 1960, Terp village was renamed Saravan.[10]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Terp village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. Some of the residents moved to Shusha city, but the pro-Armenian officials leading Azerbaijan at the time did not allow them to settle there, forcing them instead to relocate to Khojaly city. However, during the Khojaly genocide committed by Armenians on the night of February 25–26, 1992, the population was once again subjected to Armenian aggression and took refuge in other regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan.[11]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[12] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery covered an area of 1.3 hectares. Tombstones were identified in the western part, while the remaining areas were characterized by a heterogeneous, patchy surface.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 27, 2003[13] (Maxar) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. The tombstones were cleared using bulldozers, the area was covered with soil, and a new road was constructed through the center of the cemetery.

Thus, the destruction of the cemetery by 2003 was an act aimed at erasing the memory of Azerbaijanis and severing their ties with the past.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the western part of Terp village, along the roadside. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000[14] and 1:100,000 scales[15]). Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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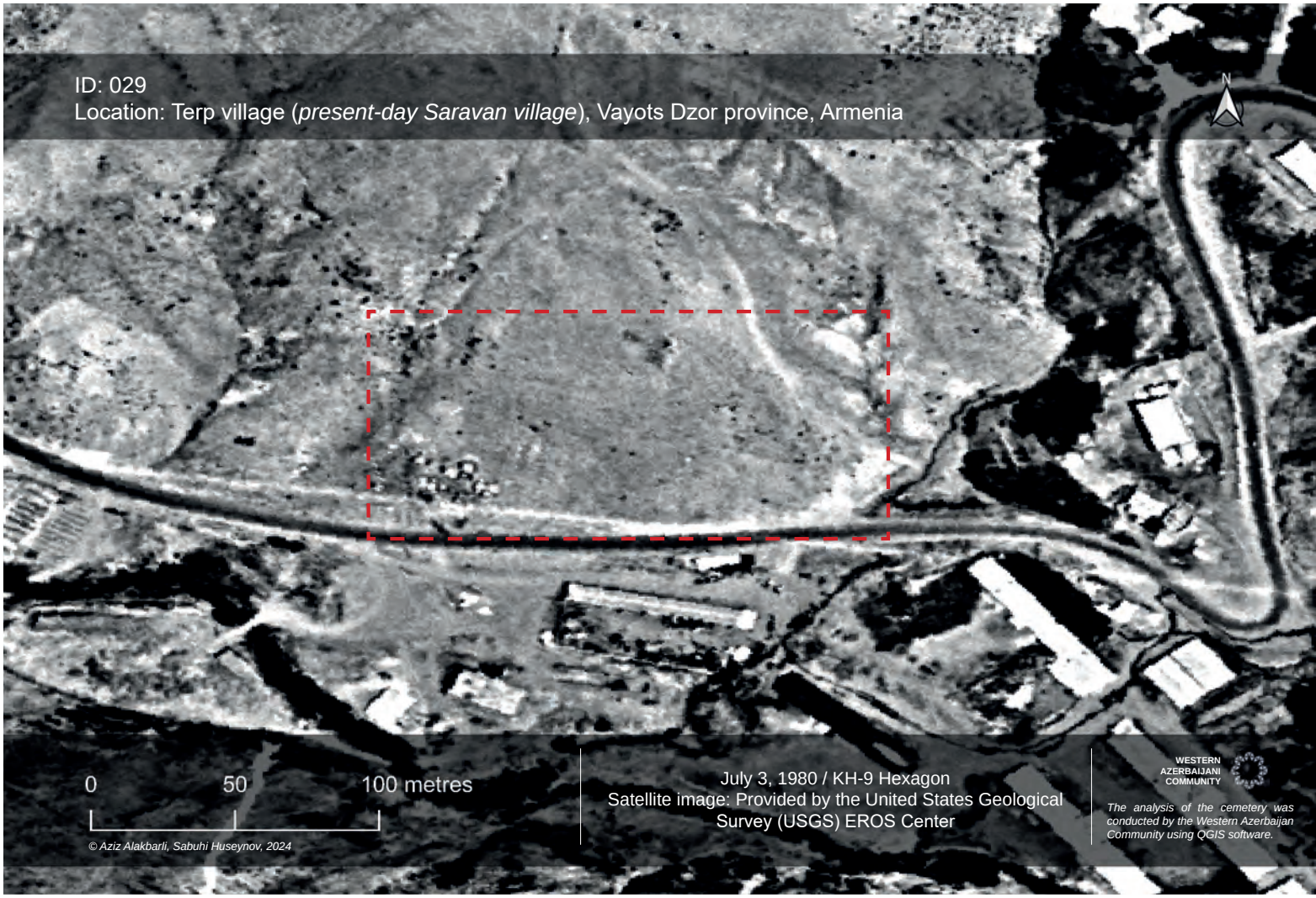
12. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
13. August 27, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-8-V (*Gndevaz*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
15. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-8 (*Dzhermuk*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1974.


ID: 029
Location: Terp village (*present-day Saravan village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 029
Location: Terp village (*present-day Saravan village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

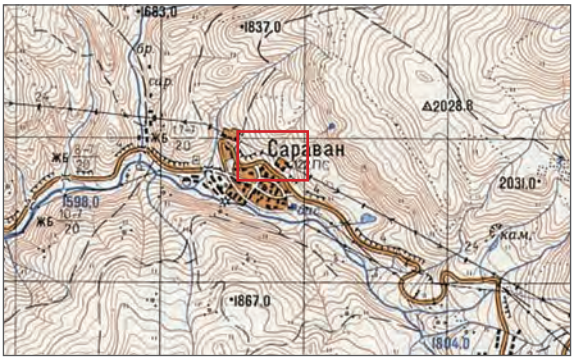
ID: 029
Location: Terp village (*present-day Saravan village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 30, 2017 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijani Community using QGIS software.

ID: 029
Location: Terp village (*present-day Saravan village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 11, 2004
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijani Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

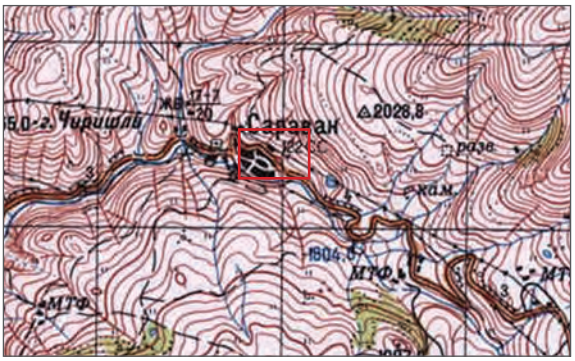
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1974

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

© Bnakavayr, 2024.

From 1994 to 1997

Status: OBLITERATED

Zeyta Village Cemetery

Location: Pashali district, Zeyta village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, Zedea village (Armenian)
ID: 020 [MC-003], 39.6870518, 45.393482

Zeyta was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the bank of the Zeytadarasi river, a tributary of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Pashali district on October 15, 1931, Azizbeyov district on October 12, 1956, and Vayk district in 1991. The earliest mention of the village in historical sources appears in the first half of the 18th century as a Muslim settlement.[1] The village was also identified as Zeyta Chapma Chomakh. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (referred to as *"Tatars" or "Muslims" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 580 Azerbaijani residents.[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Zeyta village, which had previously been part of the Malishka village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1919, 200 residents of Zeyta village were killed during an Armenian attack. Survivors were forced to flee the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Zeyta within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 34 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6] By 1926, the number of returnees had reached 147.[7] In 1949, 343 residents of Zeyta village were deported to the Ali Bayramli district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] In 1951, 25 to 30 families returned to their village, having been unable to adapt to the local climate. In 1952, since the deported populations of Gabakhli, Gurdgulakh, and Arkhach villages were not permitted to resettle in their own villages, they settled in Zeyta village instead.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the residents of Zeyta village, including those from Gabakhli, Gurdgulakh, and Arkhach villages, also took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Zeyta village was renamed Zedea.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery was located on a hill covering an area of 1.3 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 12, 2016[12] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2016. The latter imagery confirmed that earthmoving operations had been carried out in the area. A 13-by-5-meter trench had been dug, and 0.21 hectares of soil from the northern part of the cemetery had been removed and repurposed.

To narrow down the timeframe and determine the likely period of destruction, the authors analyzed changes in vegetation in the area between 1989 and 2016. A sharp decline in NDVI values beginning in 1994 indicated that events occurred during this period that hindered vegetation growth in the area. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2016, July 10, 2018[13], and May 30, 2022[14] (CNES/Airbus) showed that the situation in the area remained stable.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located north of the village, on a high hill to the left side of the road. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[15] and 1981 (1:100,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 129.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95; original source: BOA,HR.SYS, no.2878/76.
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8. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär*), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 374; original source: ARDA, f.1984, op.3, d. 7-15.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbaycanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 377.
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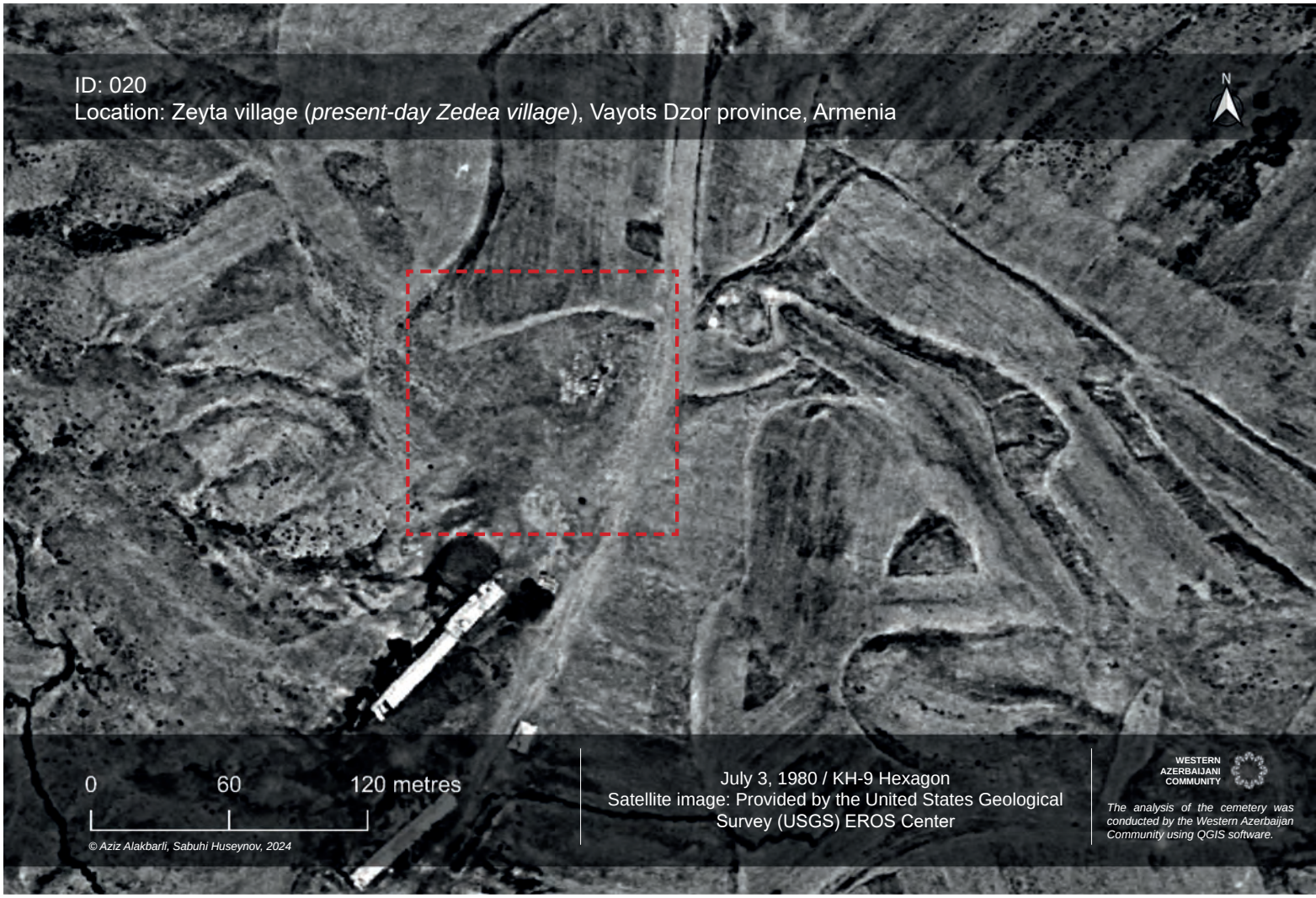
12. *WorldView-2*, August 12, 2016, Maxar via Esri Map.
13. *WorldView-2*, July 10, 2018, Maxar via Esri Map.
14. *GeoEye-1*,September 05,2021,Maxar via Esri Map.
15. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7-G (*Ekhegnadzor*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.
16. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-7 (*Ekhegnadzor*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1974.


ID: 020
Location: Zeyta village (*present-day Zedea village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 020
Location: Zeyta village (*present-day Zedea village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 12, 2016 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

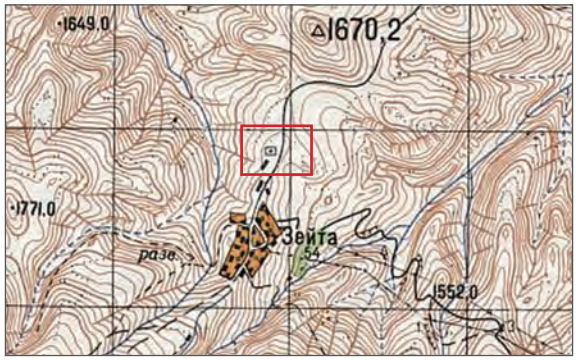
ID: 020
Location: Zeyta village (*present-day Zedea village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 10, 2018 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 020
Location: Zeyta village (*present-day Zedea village*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 5, 2021 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

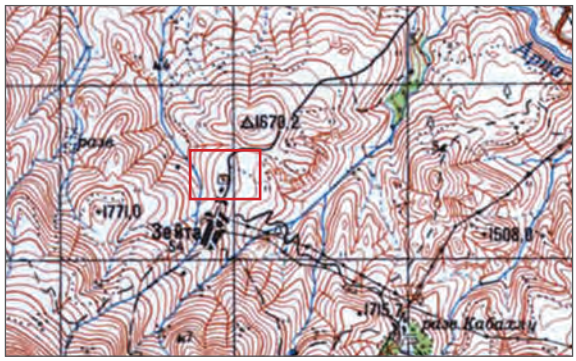
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1977

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Zirak Village Cemetery

Location: Pashali district, Zirak village (Azerbaijani) / Vayots Dzor province, village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 170 [MC-319], 39.822960, 45.708548

Zirak was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Daralayaz *mahal*, located on the bank of the Zirakchay river, a left tributary of the Arpa river. It was incorporated into Pashali district on October 15, 1931, Azizbeyov district on October 12, 1956, and Vayk district in 1991. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 394 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Zirak village, which had previously been part of the Gindivaz village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Sharur-Daralayaz *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] In November 1919, 2,000 residents of the village were killed during an Armenian attack. Survivors were forced to flee the village.[5] During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Zirak within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1923 and 1924, 158 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[6] By 1931, the number of returnees had reached 543.[7] In 1949, the entire Azerbaijani population of the village (*273 people A.A., S.H.*) was deported to the Jdanov district (present-day Beylagan) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[8] Following this event, the village was officially dissolved by the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 19, 1950.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery8 dated July 3, 1980[9] (*at right, top*) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of **1.3 hectares**, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. The Hexagon imagery suggests that despite the 32 years that had passed since the deportation of Azerbaijanis from Zirak village, the cemetery remained intact and preserved. It is possible that during the Soviet period, the cemetery was preserved because local residents frequently visited the graves of their relatives.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 28, 2003[10] (QuickBird-2) (*at right, bottom*) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from present-day Armenia. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. The tombstones were no longer visible, and traces of heavy machinery, as well as alterations to the soil surface, were identified in the area. These traces most likely resulted from the destruction of tombstones by heavy machinery operating within the cemetery. However, the area was not converted into agricultural land.

The fact that the area was not repurposed for other uses confirms that the objective of the destruction process was the erasure of the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijanis.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 250 meters northwest of the ruins of Zirak village, at an elevation of 2,226 meters above sea level. This location was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1926 (1:210,000 scale)[11], 1930 (1:210,000)[12], 1931 (1:210,000)[13], 1935 (1:210,000)[14], 1937 (1:210,000)[15],1941 (1:210,000)[16], and 1976 (1:50,000)[17]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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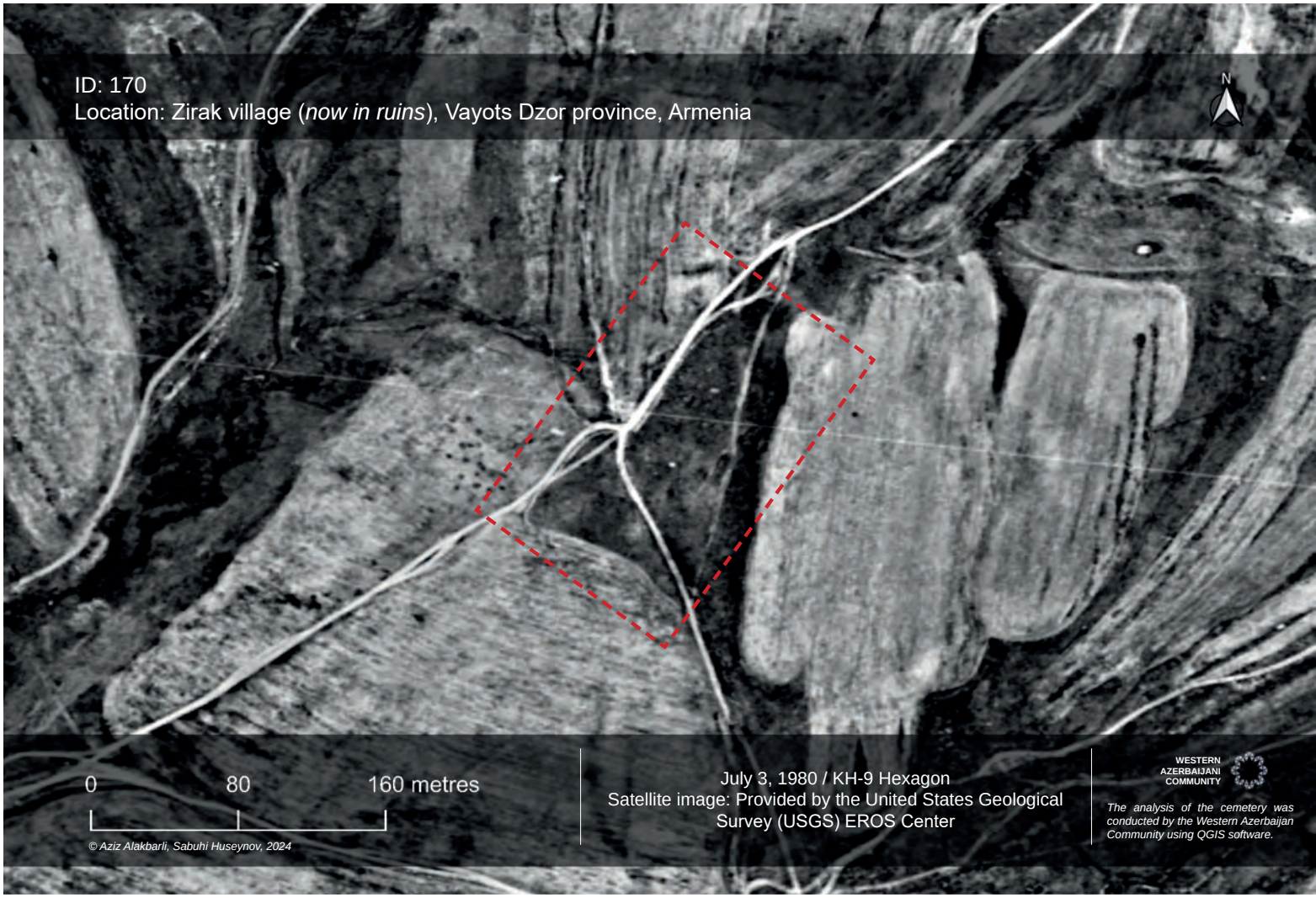
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 129.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Arshiv Belgelerine Gore Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi,* IV. cilt (1920–1922) (Ankara: Osmanlï Arshivi Daire Bashkanlïghï Yayïnlarï, 1998), 95; original source: BOA,HR.SYS, no.2878/76.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 89, 159.
8. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 376; original source: ARDA, f.1984, op.3, d.7-15.
9. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1216-100138A003*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS.
10. August 28, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
11. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 9, List Zh (*E.Zh*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1926.
12. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 9, List Zh (*E.Zh*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1930.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 9, List Zh (*E.Zh*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1931.
14. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, Zh.9 *(Shusha)*. [map, scale 1:210,000, 1935.
15. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, Zh.9 *(Shusha)*. [map, scale 1:210,000, 1937.
16. General'nyï Shtab Krasnoï Armii, Zhe-9 (*Shusha*) [map], scale 1:210,000, 1941.
17. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-8-V (*Gndevaz*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 170
Location: Zirak village (*now in ruins*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

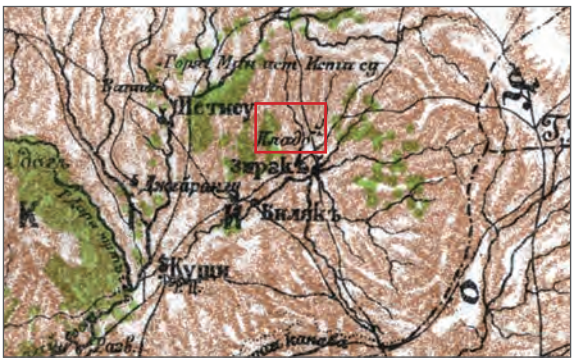
ID: 170
Location: Zirak village (*now in ruins*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 28, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 170
Location: Zirak village (*now in ruins*), Vayots Dzor province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 11, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1926

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1926 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

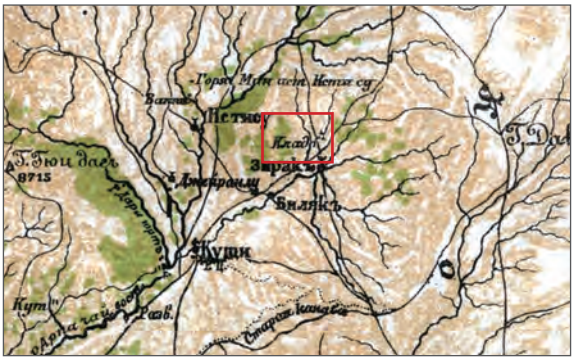


1930

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1930 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

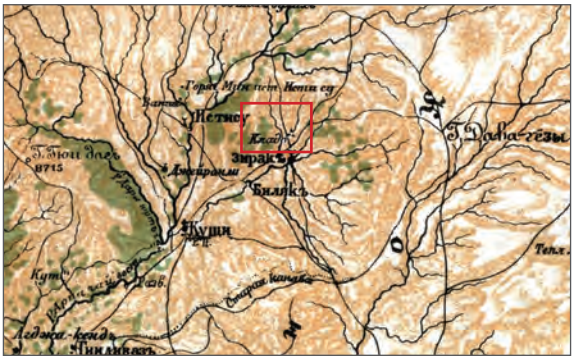
1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



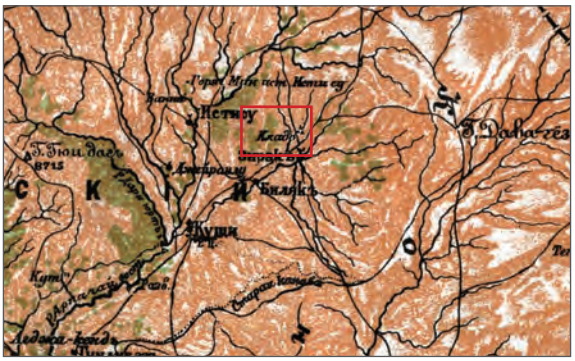
1935

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1935 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



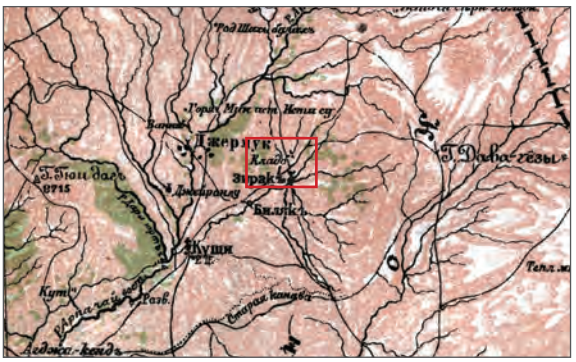
1937

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1937 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



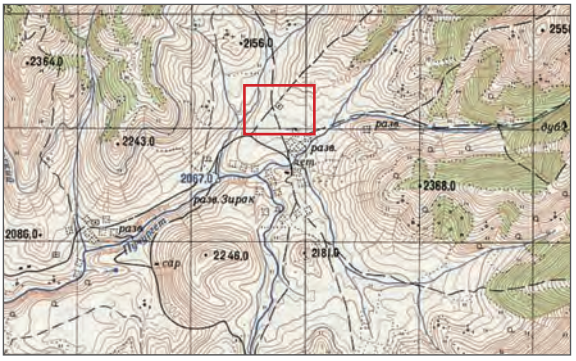
1941

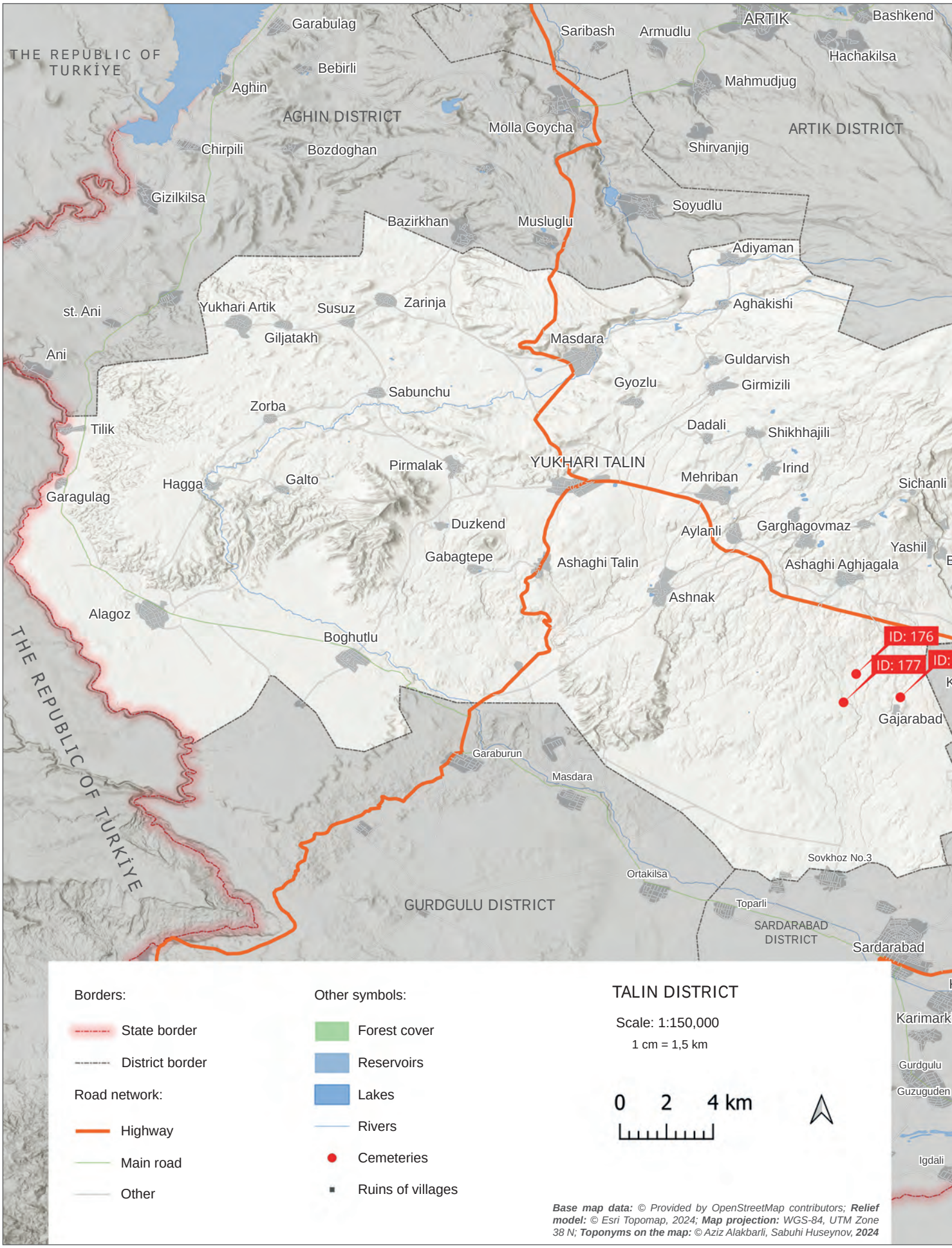
Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1941 by the General Staff of the USSR Red Army.

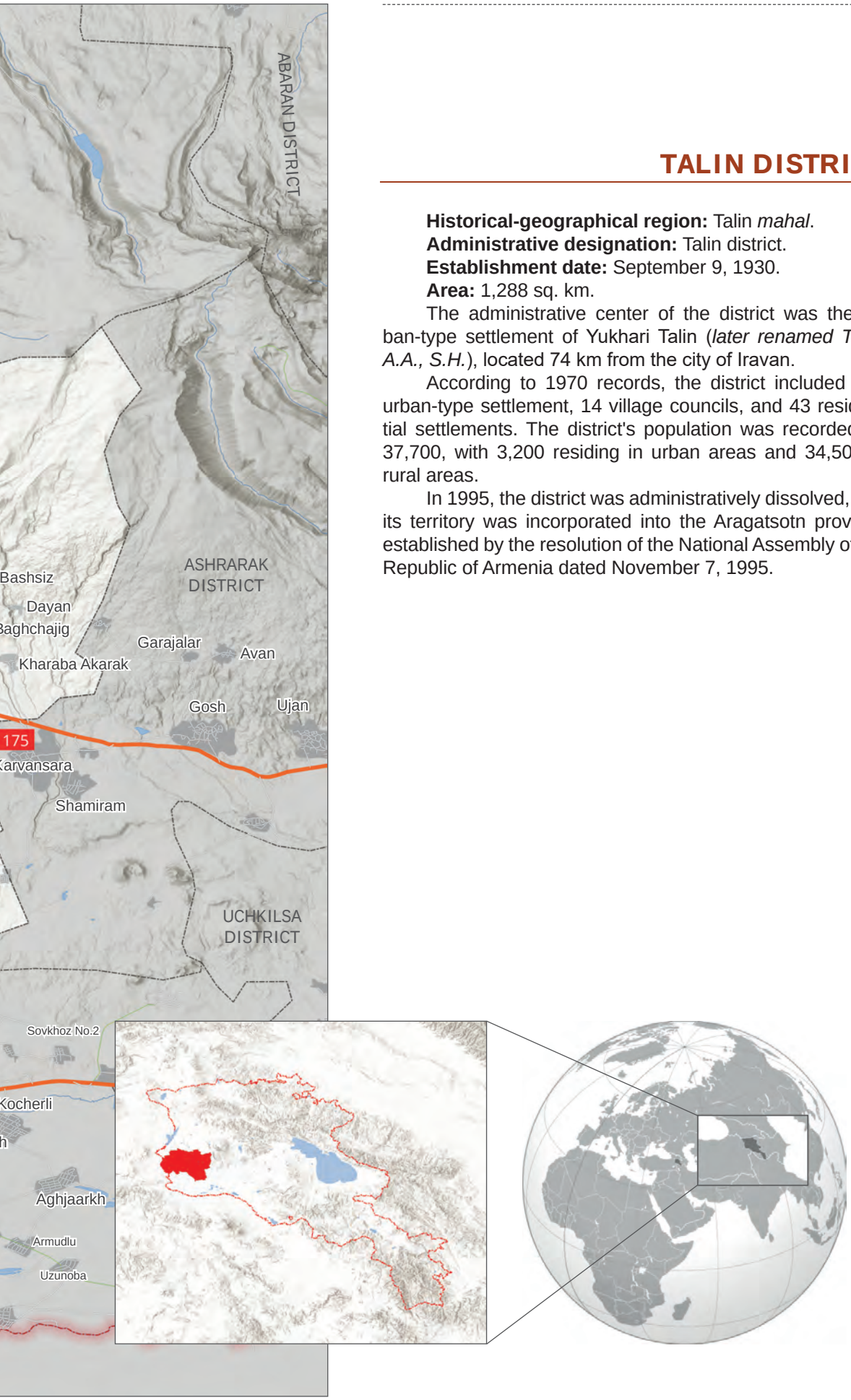


1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.




THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
Garabulag
Bebirli
Aghin
AGHIN DISTRICT
Chirpili
Bozdoghan
Gizilkilsa
Bazirkhan
Musluglu
Saribash
Armudlu
ARTIK
Bashkend
Hachakilsa
Mahmudjug
Molla Goycha
ARTIK DISTRICT
Shirvanjig
Soyudlu
Adiyaman
st. Ani
Yukhari Artik
Susuz
Zarinja
Giljatakh
Ani
Masdara
Aghakishi
Guldarvish
Gyozlu
Girmizili
Sabunchu
Zorba
Tilik
Dadali
Shikhhajili
Pirmalak
YUKHARI TALIN
Irind
Mehriban
Sichanli
Hagga
Galto
Garagulag
Duzkend
Aylanli
Garghagovmaz
Yashil
Gabagtepe
Ashaghi Talin
Ashaghi Aghjagala
Ashnak
Alagoz
Boghutlu
ID: 176
ID: 177
Gajarabad
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
Garaburun
Masdara
Sovkhoz No.3
Ortakilsa
GURDGULU DISTRICT
Toparli
SARDARABAD DISTRICT
Sardarabad
Karimark
Gurdgulu
Guzuguden
Igdali
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
TALIN DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



TALIN DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Talin *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Talin district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 1,288 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Yukhari Talin (*later renamed Talin, A.A., S.H.*), located 74 km from the city of Iravan.

According to 1970 records, the district included one urban-type settlement, 14 village councils, and 43 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 37,700, with 3,200 residing in urban areas and 34,500 in rural areas.

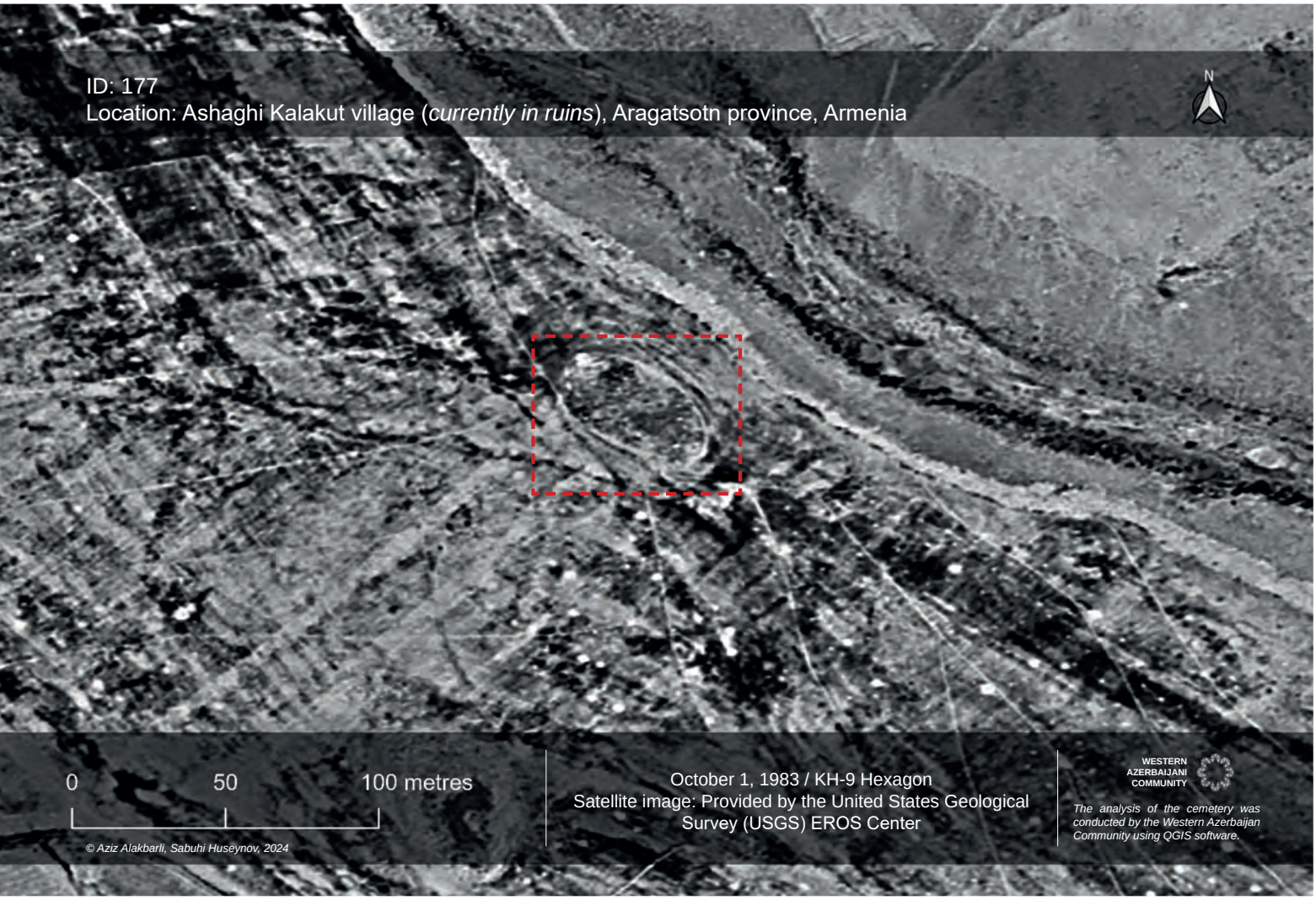
In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Aragatsotn province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Ashaghi Kalakut Village Cemetery

Location: Talin district, Ashaghi Kalakut village (Azerbaijani) / Aragatsotn province, village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 177 [MC-566], 40.275416, 44.011087


ID: 177
Location: Ashaghi Kalakut village (*currently in ruins*), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 1, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Ashaghi Kalakut was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Talin *mahal*. It was incorporated into Talin district on September 9, 1930. Prior to March 1918, Ashaghi Kalakut village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[1] In 1921 and the subsequent years, requests made by the few surviving Azerbaijanis to return were denied. In the following period, the village was never resettled and was used as a winter pasture during the Armenian SSR period.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

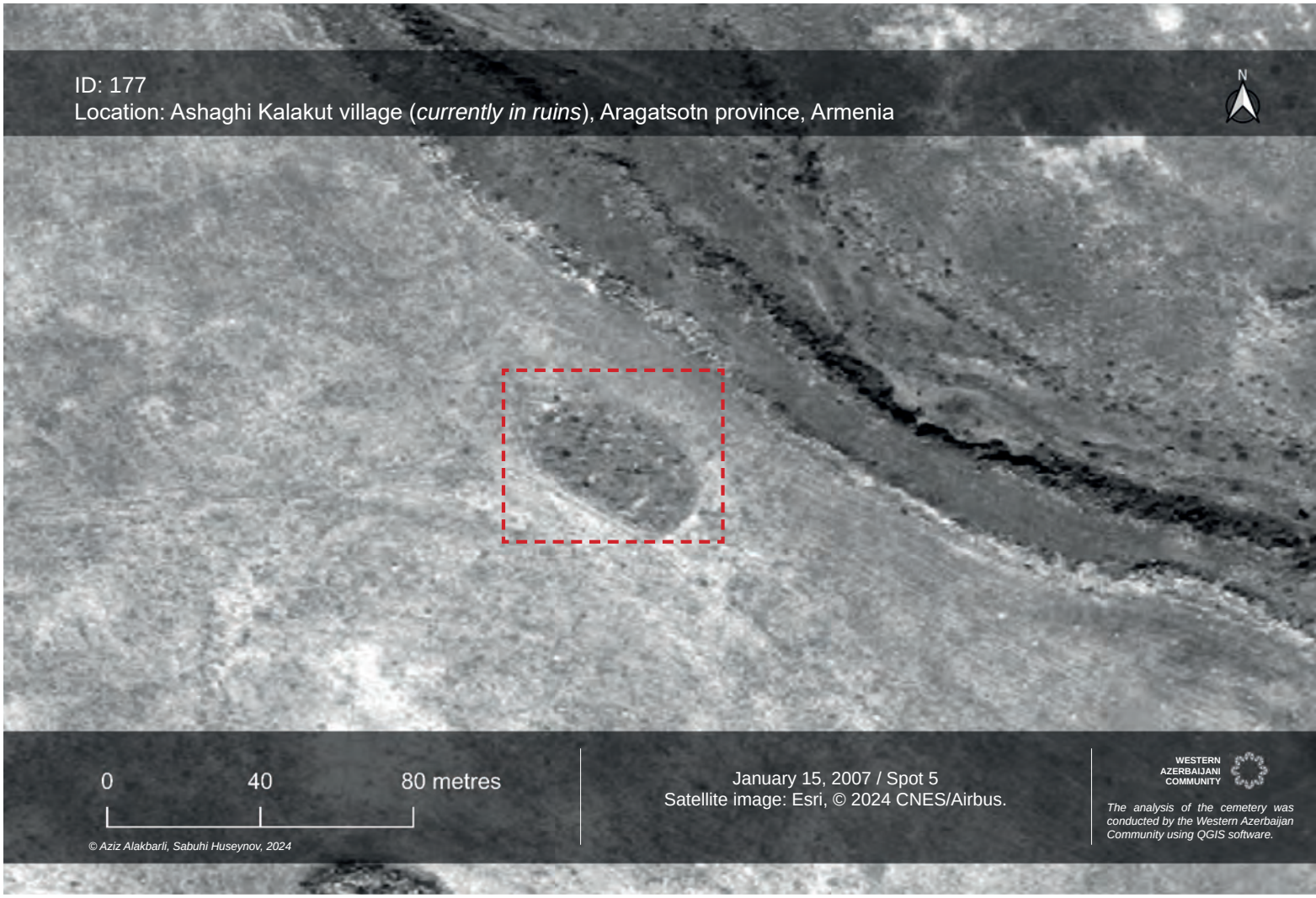
Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 1, 1983[2] (top image) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.17 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 and June 13, 2007[3] (Spot-5) (at right, top) determined that the cemetery was obliterated between 1983 and 2007.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located to the south of the winter pasture. This site was marked on a German topographic map published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[4]. Using the coordinates from the 1918 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery, within a margin of a few hundred meters, and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

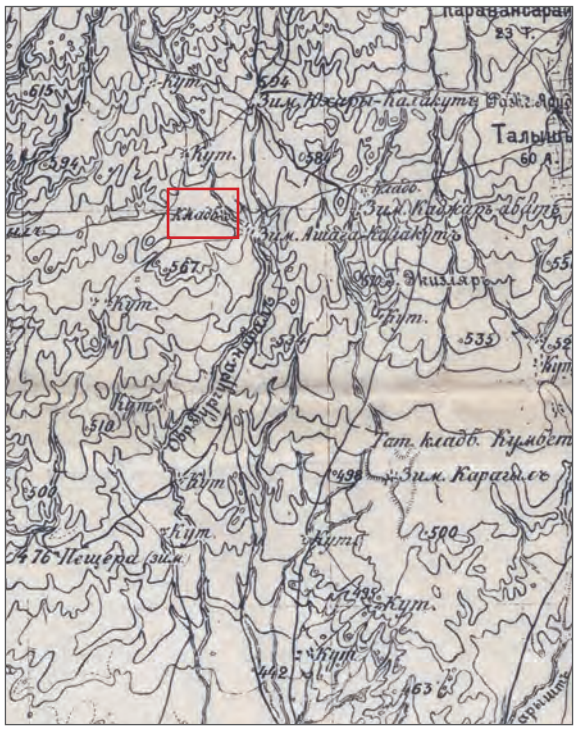
1. Spisok razorënnykh i broshennykh zhiteljami musul´manskikh selenij v Erivanskoj gubernii do marta 1918 goda, in *Azerbayjan belgelerinde ermeni sorunu (1918-1920)* (Ankara, 2001), 649; original source: ARDA. f.894 op.10, d. 80.
2. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 01, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
3. *Spot-5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map
4. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / *E.6.e.* [map], 1:84000. 1918.


ID: 177
Location: Ashaghi Kalakut village (*currently in ruins*), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
40
80 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot 5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

The cemetery was marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.



Prior to 1983

Status: OBLITERATED

Cemetery in Gajarabad Winter Pasture

Location: Talin district, Gajarabad pasture (Azerbaijani) / Aragatsotn province, Partizak village (Armenian)
ID: 175 [MC-188], 40.277966, 44.039661

ID: 175
Location: Gajarabad village (present-day Partizak village), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 1, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Gajarabad was a winter pasture used by Azerbaijanis in the Talin *mahal*. It was incorporated into Talin district on September 9, 1930 This site, known as Gajarabad, once had an ancient cemetery. During the Soviet period, the *Shamiram sovkhoz* was situated here.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 1, 1983[1] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 1 hectare. Tombstones could not be identified in the 1983 imagery. The layout of the cemetery had been destroyed during road construction many years earlier. Gajarabad cemetery was one of the ancient cemeteries in the region. However, the authors were unable to find any information in academic literature concerning the documentation of its tombstones.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983 and June 13, 2023[2] (Airbus) revealed that the destruction process had already been completed many years earlier. Satellite imagery provided by Airbus through Google Earth confirmed that the cemetery area had been completely leveled.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located northeast of the winter pasture, on a high hill along the roadside. This site was marked as a Muslim cemetery on a map dated 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[3]. This site was also marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1982 (1:50,000 scale)[4]. Using the coordinates from the 1982 Soviet topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 Hexagon imagery and confirmed its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 01, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
2. June 13, 2023, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
3. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / *E.6.6.* [map], 1:84000. 1918.
4. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-137-A (*Arshaluis*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1982.

ID: 175
Location: Gajarabad village (*present-day Partizak village*), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 24, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

The cemetery was marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

1982

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1982 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

Unknown

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Kalakut Village Cemetery

Location: Talin district, Yukhari Kalakut village (Azerbaijani) / Aragatsotn province, village in ruins (Armenian)
ID: 176 [MC-200], 40.289656, 44.017430

ID:176
Location: Yukhari Kalakut village (*currently in ruins*), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 1, 1983 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Yukhari Kalakut was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Talin *mahal*. It was incorporated into Talin district on September 9, 1930. Prior to March 1918, Yukhari Kalakut village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[1] There is no record from the Soviet period regarding the return of the surviving Azerbaijani inhabitants. Instead, Yezidi Kurds were settled in the village. During the Soviet era, the village was abolished and began to be used as a winter pasture. The cemetery remained within the village ruins throughout the Soviet period.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated October 1, 1983[2] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.15 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1983, August 17, 2016[3] (WorldView-2), and June 13, 2023[4] (Airbus), confirmed the presence of the remnants of tombstones within the cemetery area. It was not possible to fully assess the condition of the tombstones. The imagery indicates that extensive destruction had occurred many years earlier. This is further supported by the piles of debris accumulated in the area.

GEOLOCATION:

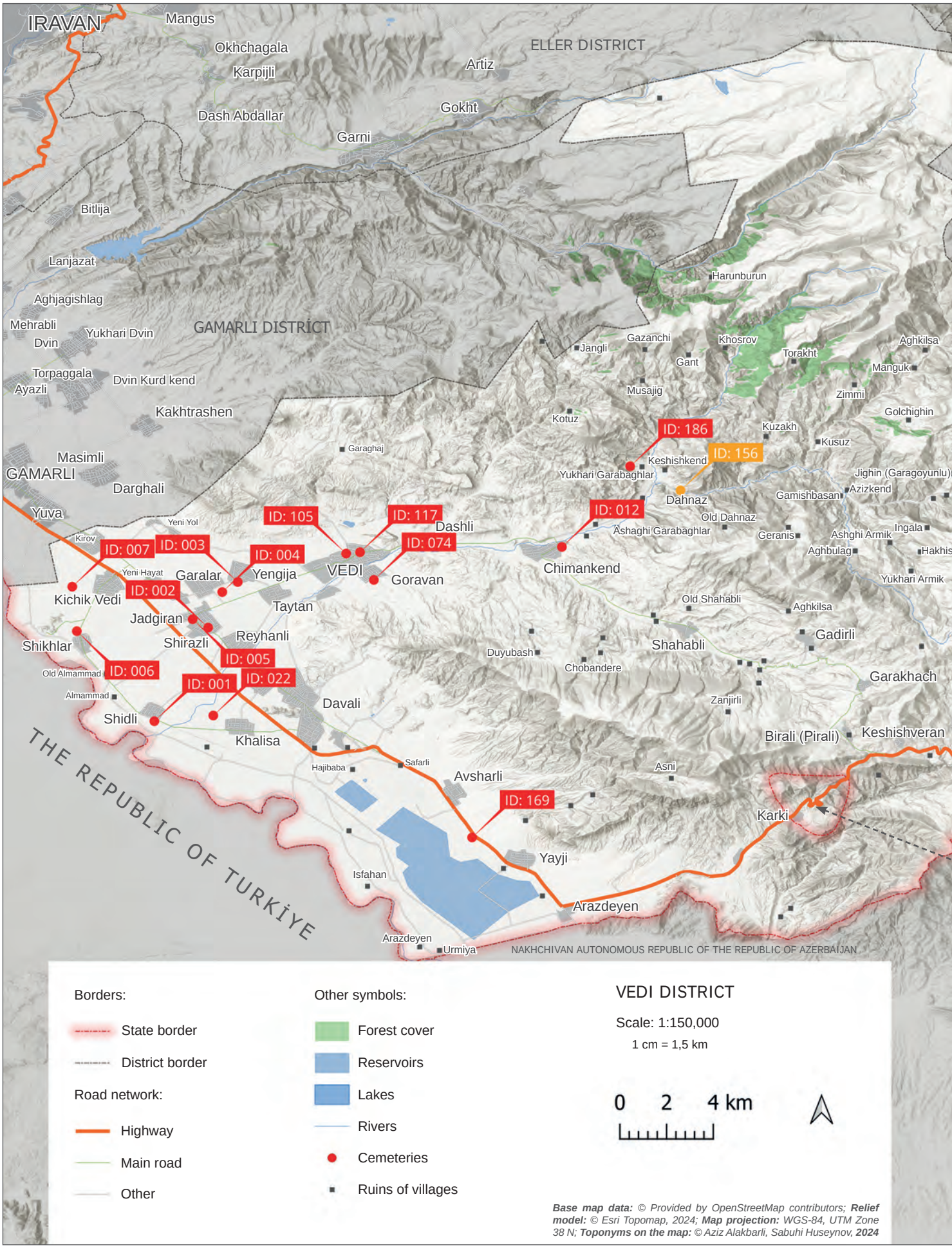
The cemetery is located to the south of the winter pasture. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1982 (1:50,000 scale)[5]. Using the coordinates from the 1982 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1983 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

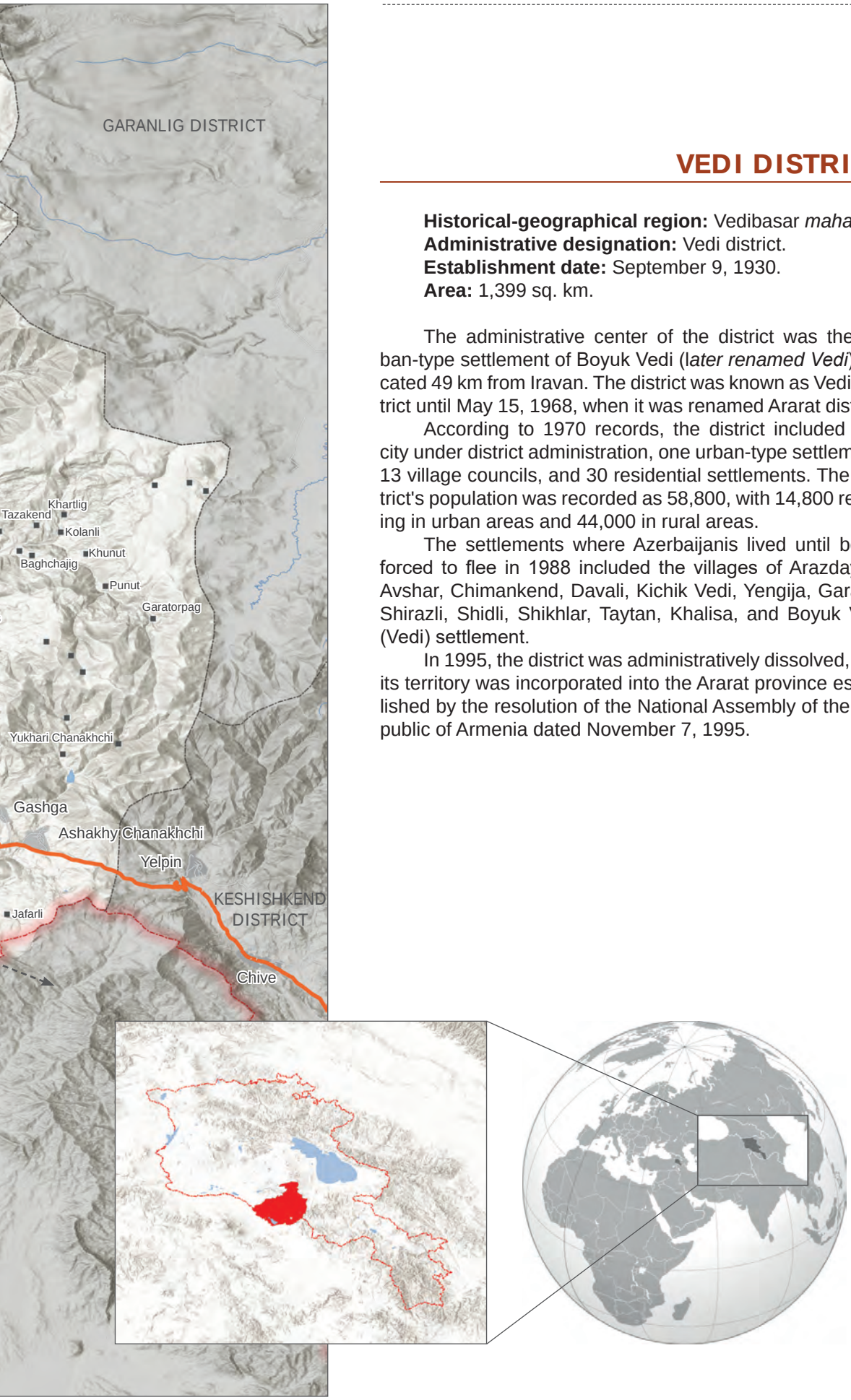
REFERENCES:

1. Spisok razorënnykh i broshennykh zhiteljami musul´manskikh selenij v Erivanskoj gubernii do marta 1918 goda, in *Azerbayjan belgelerinde ermeni sorunu (1918-1920)* (Ankara, 2001), 649; original source: ARDA. f.894 op.10, d. 80.
2. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1218-200716F014*, October 01, 1983, USGS EROS Data Center.
3. *WorldView-2*, August 17, 2016, Maxar via Esri Map.
4. June 13, 2023, CNES/ Aibus via Google Earth.
5. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-137-A (*Arshaluis*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1982.

ID:176
Location: Yukhari Kalakut village (*currently in ruins*), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 17, 2017 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID:176
Location: Yukhari Kalakut village (*currently in ruins*), Aragatsotn province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 24, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


IRAVAN
Mangus
Okhchagala
Karpijli
Dash Abdallar
Garni
Artiz
ELLER DISTRICT
Gokht
Bitlija
Lanjazat
Aghjagishlag
Mehrabli
Dvin
Yukhari Dvin
GAMARLI DISTRİCT
Torpaggala
Ayazli
Dvin Kurd kend
Kakhtrashen
Masimli
GAMARLI
Darghali
Yuva
Yeni Yol
Kirov
Garaghaj
Harunburun
Gazanchi
Jangli
Khosrov
Torakht
Gant
Aghkilsa
Manguk
Musajig
Zimmi
Golchighin
Kotuz
Kuzakh
Kusuz
ID: 186
ID: 156
Keshishkend
Yukhari Garabaghlar
Jighin (Garagoyunlu)
Azizkend
Gamishbasan
Dahnaz
Old Dahnaz
ID: 012
Ashaghi Garabaghlar
Geranis
Ingala
Ashghi Armik
Aghbulag
Hakhis
Yukhari Armik
ID: 105
ID: 117
Dashli
ID: 007
ID: 003
ID: 004
ID: 074
VEDI
Yeni Hayat
Garalar
Yengija
Goravan
Chimankend
Kichik Vedi
ID: 002
Taytan
Old Shahabli
Aghkilsa
Jadgiran
Shirazli
Reyhanli
Gadirli
Shikhlar
Duyubash
Shahabli
ID: 005
ID: 006
Chobandere
Old Almammad
ID: 001
ID: 022
Garakhach
Almammad
Zanjirli
Davali
Shidli
Khalisa
Birali (Pirali)
Keshishveran
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
Hajibaba
Safarli
Asni
Avsharli
ID: 169
Karki
Yayji
Isfahan
Arazdeyen
Arazdeyen
Urmiya
NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
VEDI DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



VEDI DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Vedibasar *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Vedi district.
Establishment date: September 9, 1930.
Area: 1,399 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Boyuk Vedi (l*ater renamed Vedi*), located 49 km from Iravan. The district was known as Vedi district until May 15, 1968, when it was renamed Ararat district.

According to 1970 records, the district included one city under district administration, one urban-type settlement, 13 village councils, and 30 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 58,800, with 14,800 residing in urban areas and 44,000 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Arazdayan, Avshar, Chimankend, Davali, Kichik Vedi, Yengija, Garalar, Shirazli, Shidli, Shikhlar, Taytan, Khalisa, and Boyuk Vedi (Vedi) settlement.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Ararat province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 2010

Status: OBLITERATED

Afsharli (Ovsharli) Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Chambarak village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Surenavan village (Armenian)
ID: 169 [MC-481], 39.775774, 44.784226

Afsharli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located along the Iravan–Nakhchivan railway line, near Yayji village. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 17th century. At that time, the village reportedly consisted of 1,000 households and was named Afsharli due to its population being from the Afshar Turkic tribe.[1] The village was also known as Ovsharli. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 100 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Afsharli village, which had previously been part of the Davali village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On July 12, 1920, Afsharli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied and destroyed by Armenians.[5] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving the territory of Afsharli village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] A refugee camp was later established on the ruins of the village for Armenians brought first from Isfahan and Sultanabad in present-day Iran, and subsequently from the territories of present-day Syria.[7] From that time onward, the village became known as *Chambarak* (*meaning "camp" in Armenian*). A few Azerbaijani families also returned to the area and began residing alongside Armenians in the newly established Chambarak village. In 1935, the sovkhoz named after *Spandaryan* was established on the basis of this camp. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated November 12, 1946, the village was renamed Surenavan.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Afsharli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[8] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.77 hectares, characterized by a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. The cemetery was situated atop a large mound approximately 3 meters high. It was surrounded by vineyards and had remained undisturbed for some time.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 9, 2010[9] (GeoEye-1) confirmed that the cemetery site had been obliterated and converted into an apricot orchard. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2010 and October 27, 2021[10] revealed that excavation and leveling work had been carried out on the mound where the cemetery was located, leaving only a small portion intact. Photographs taken in September 2018 further confirmed the destruction of the cemetery area.

Thus, the damage inflicted on the Afsharli cemetery is multifaceted and profound. The over-400-year-old Muslim cemetery of the Vedibasar region was deliberately obliterated, causing significant harm to the Azerbaijani cultural heritage of the area. This destruction constitutes both the physical eradication of a historical site and an intentional attempt to erase traces of Azerbaijani historical presence in the region.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 1.5 km south of Afsharli village, on the right side of the *Afsharli–Yayji road* (*Surenavan–Armash*), atop a mound approximately 3 meters high. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[11], 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[12], 1976 (1:50,000 scale)[13] and 1981 (1:100,000 scale)[14]. Using the coordinates from the 1976 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 83.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 131.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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8. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1216-100138A004*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
9. *GeoEye-1*, June 09, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
10. October 27, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
11. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17, *Ararat* [map], 1:84 000,1918.
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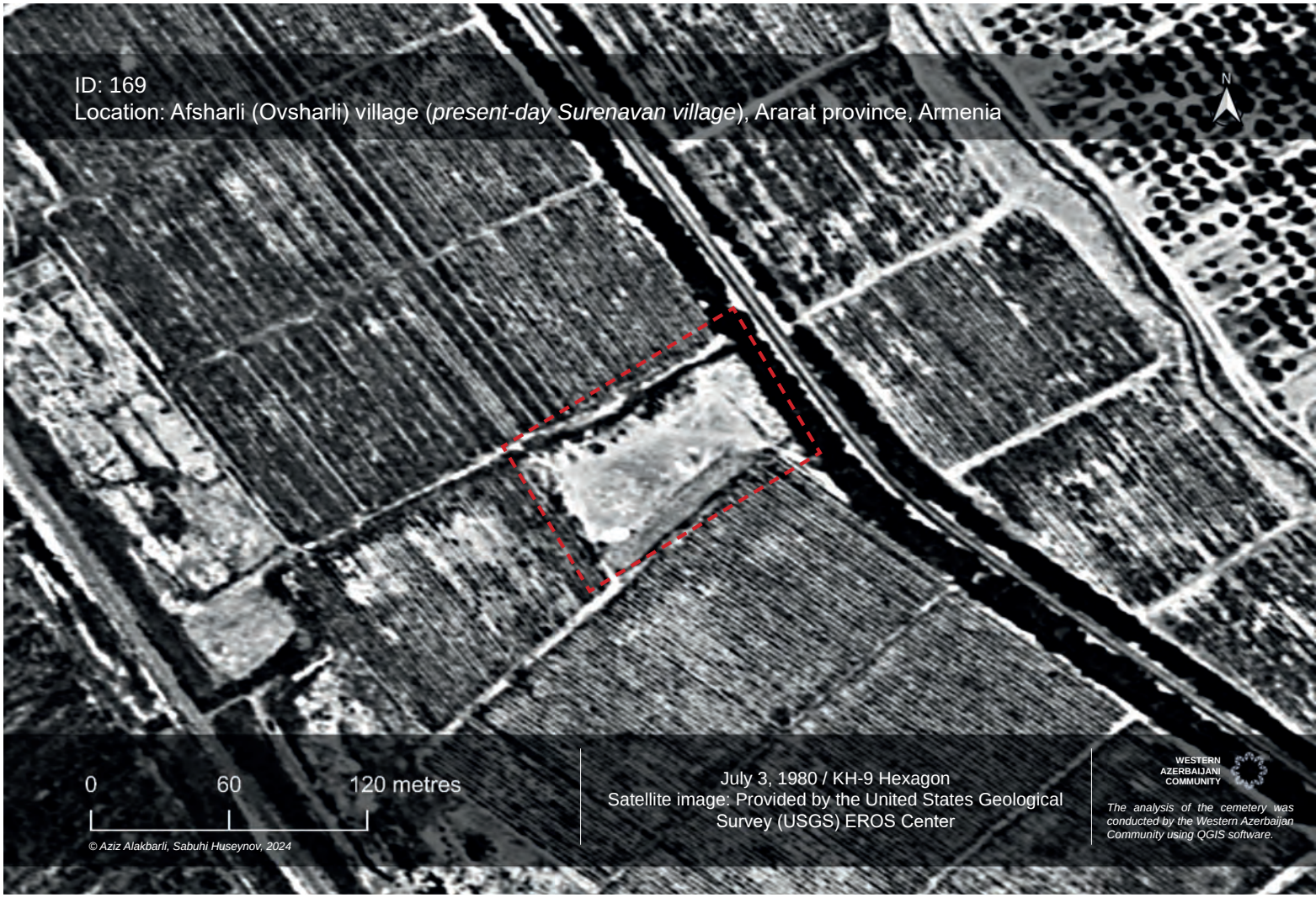
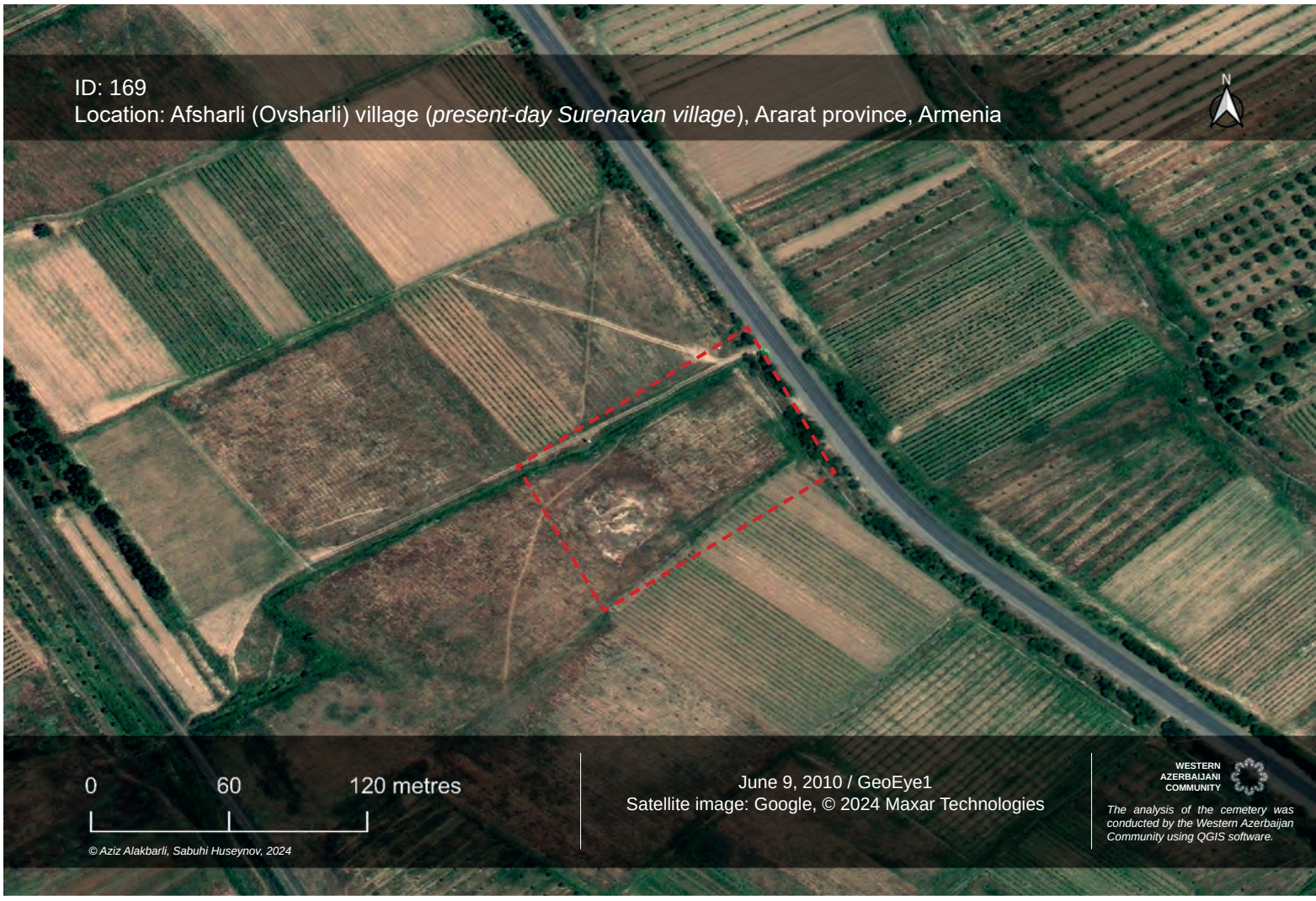
13. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6-G (*Sadarak*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1976.
14. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000,1981.


ID: 169
Location: Afsharli (Ovsharli) village (*present-day Surenavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 169
Location: Afsharli (Ovsharli) village (*present-day Surenavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2010 / GeoEye1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 169
Location: Afsharli (Ovsharli) village (*present-day Surenavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 21, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

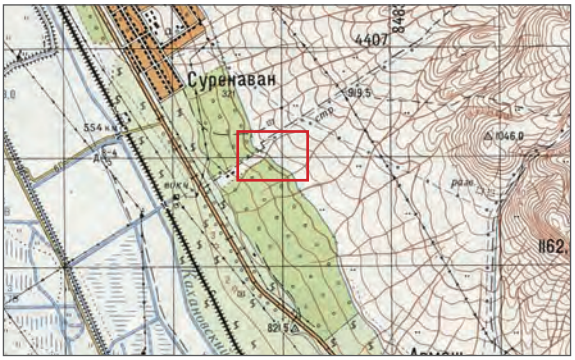
Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

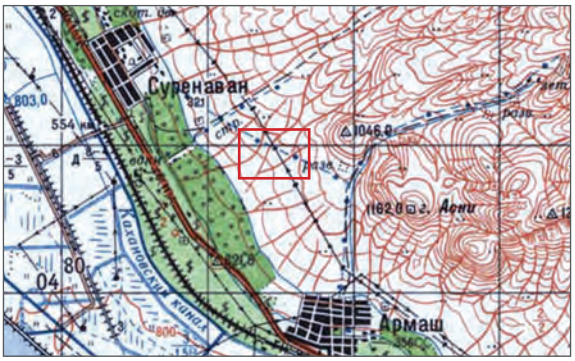
1976

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

© Google, 2024. Image © Armenia360, September 2018. Accessed via Google Maps.

From 1964 to 1973

Status: OBLITERATED

Boyuk Vedi Village Kosanli Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Boyuk Vedi village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Vedi city (Armenian)
ID: 105 [MC-568], 39.917046, 44.721472

Boyuk Vedi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located on both banks of the Vedi river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. It was later designated as a settlement. Historical sources mentioned Boyuk Vedi village as early as 1514.[1] The village was also referred to as Vedi and *Uliya Vedi*. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 2,464 Azerbaijan*i* residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Boyuk Vedi village, which had previously been part of the Vedichay village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On July 11, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing the population to abandon the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] From that date onward, Armenian refugees brought from abroad were settled in Boyuk Vedi village. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Boyuk Vedi village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 1,052 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began to live alongside 453 Armenians.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 4, 1940, Boyuk Vedi village was renamed Vedi settlement.

In 1949, 53 Azerbaijani residents of the village were deported to the Ali Bayramli district of the Azerbaijan SSR; in 1950, 441 residents were deported to the Jdanov district; 21 others were resettled in the villages of Gushchu and Gachagkend in the Salyan district. In 1951, 990 residents were deported to Jdanov, Sabirabad, and Yevlakh districts of the Azerbaijan SSR, and in 1953, an additional 70 people were deported to the Jdanov district.[8] After some time, a small portion of the Azerbaijani population was able to return.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Boyuk Vedi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9]

There were five Muslim cemeteries in Boyuk Vedi village. One of them was the Kosanli cemetery located to the west of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on Corona satellite imagery dated October 8, 1964[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The cemetery covered an area of 3 hectares. However, due to the limited resolution of satellite imagery, it was not possible to identify tombstones. The western part of the area was found to be heterogeneous, and it was determined that a road had already been constructed through the center of the cemetery by the date of the imagery. This led to the disruption of the site's structure and marked the beginning of its destruction.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1964 and July 3, 1973[11] (KH-9 Hexagon) confirmed that during this period, the cemetery was obliterated, and a secondary school was constructed on the site (Images Nos. 1–4).

Further comparative analysis of the 1973 Hexagon image with high-resolution satellite imagery dated August 27, 2003[12] (QuickBird-2), and July 12, 2023[13] (Airbus), confirmed that the cemetery had been obliterated many years earlier and a school had been built in its place.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located to the south of the village. This site is marked on topographic maps published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[14] and 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 Soviet topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1964 Corona imagery and confirmed its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 131.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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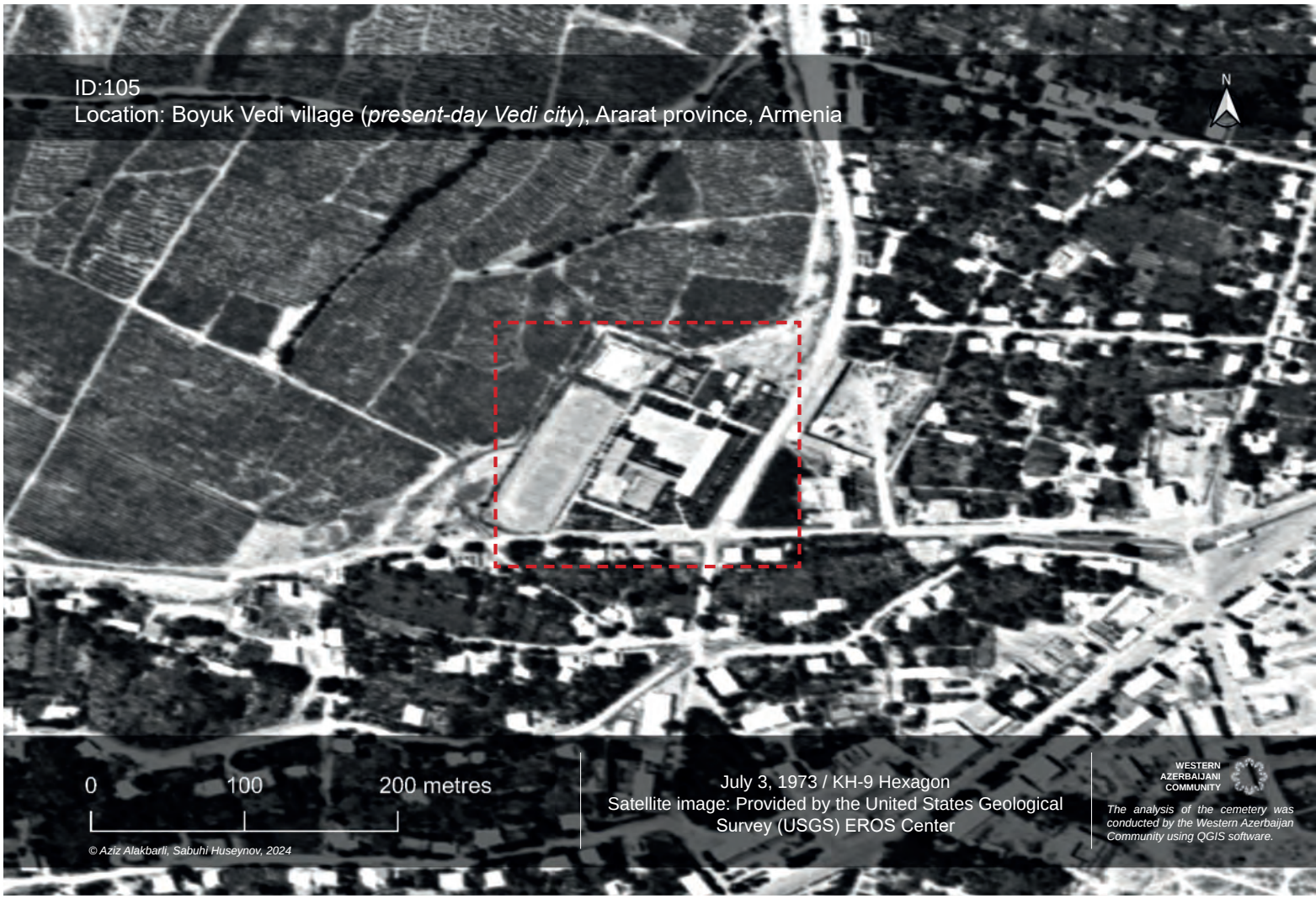
8. *Azärbayjanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 375,487, 588, 681.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi Azärbayjan abidäläri* (Baku: "Aghrïdagh" , 2006), 31.
10. *Corona, DS1011-1040DA140*, October 08, 1964, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100170A01*, July 3, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. August 27, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. July 12, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17. *Ararat* [map], 1:84000, 1918.
15. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.

ID:105
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
200
400 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 8, 1964 / Corona
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID:105
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID:105
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID:105
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
July 12, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

The cemetery was marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and re-printed in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the USSR.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

From 1973 to 1980

Status: OBLITERATED

Boyuk Vedi Village Paskilar Mahallasi Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Boyuk Vedi village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Vedi city (Armenian)
ID: 117 [MC-567], 39.917697, 44.728393

Boyuk Vedi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located on both banks of the Vedi river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. It was later designated as a settlement. Historical sources mentioned Boyuk Vedi village as early as 1514.[1] The village was also referred to as Vedi and Uliya Vedi. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 2,464 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918, onward, Boyuk Vedi village, which had previously been part of the Vedichay village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On July 11, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing the population to abandon the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] From that date onward, Armenian refugees brought from abroad were settled in Boyuk Vedi village. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, placing Boyuk Vedi village within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 1,052 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began to live alongside 453 Armenians.[7] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 4, 1940, Boyuk Vedi village was renamed Vedi settlement.

In 1949, 53 Azerbaijani residents of the village were deported to the Ali Bayramli district of the Azerbaijan SSR; in 1950, 441 residents were deported to the Jdanov district; 21 others were resettled in the villages of Gushchu and Gachagkend in the Salyan district. In 1951, 990 residents were deported to the Jdanov, Sabirabad, and Yevlakh districts of the Azerbaijan SSR, and in 1953, an additional 70 people were deported to the Jdanov district.[8] After some time, a small portion of the Azerbaijani population was able to return.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Boyuk Vedi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[9]

There were five Muslim cemeteries in Boyuk Vedi village. One of them was the Paskilar cemetery located to the west of the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1973[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.946 hectares, characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern.

A comparative analysis of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1973 and July 3, 1980[11], revealed that during this period the cemetery was obliterated, and a kindergarten was constructed on the site (Images Nos. 1–2). Further comparative analysis of imagery dated 1980, August 27, 2003[12] (QuickBird-2), and July 12, 2023[13] (Airbus), confirmed that the situation on the ground had remained unchanged.

Thus, this case not only illustrates the physical erasure of Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage, but also demonstrates the repurposing of the site for new structures.

The obliteration of the cemetery and the construction of a kindergarten in its place served to obstruct the return of Azerbaijanis to the area and formed part of the broader deportation policy pursued against Azerbaijanis in the Armenian SSR.

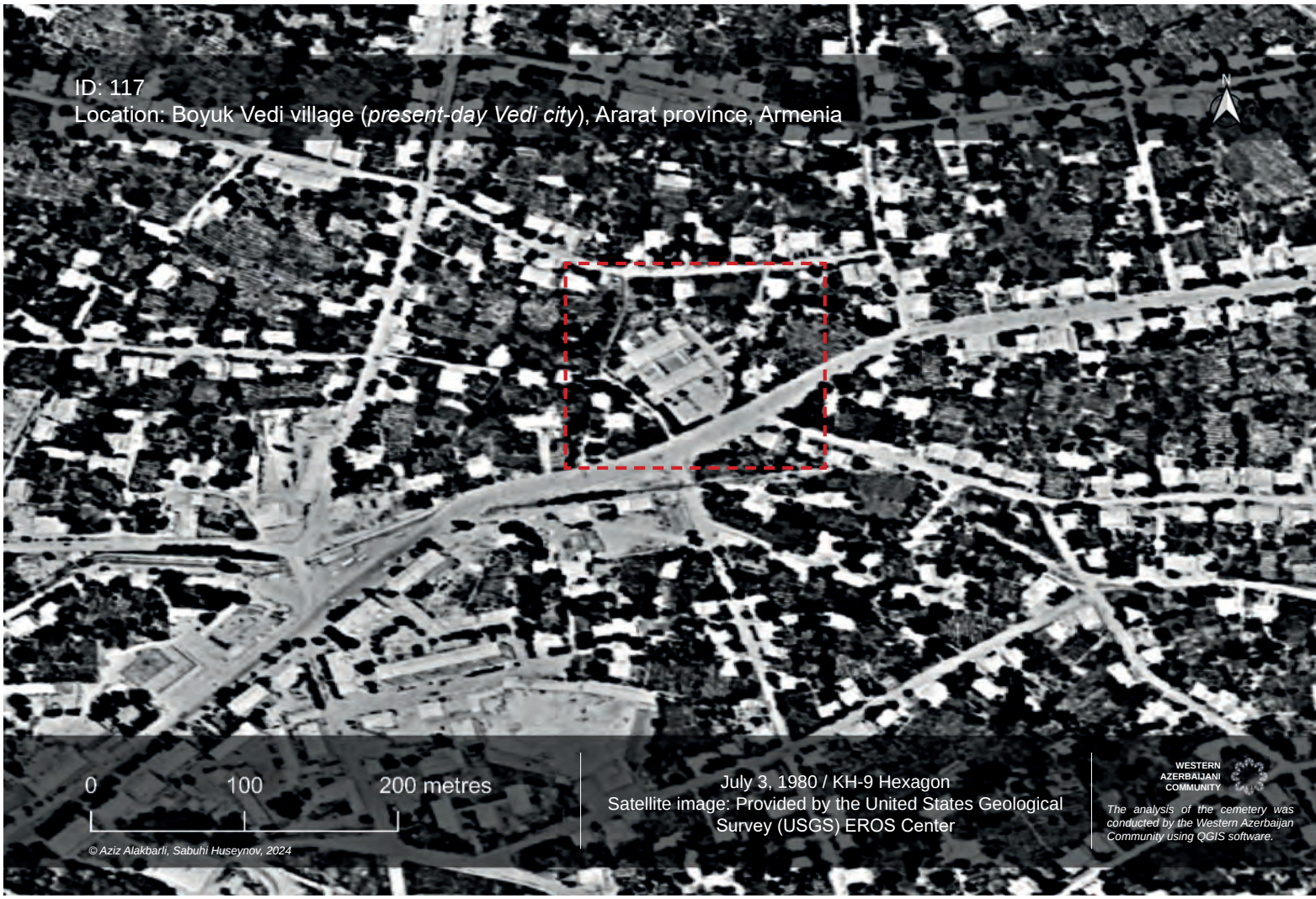
GEOLOCATION:

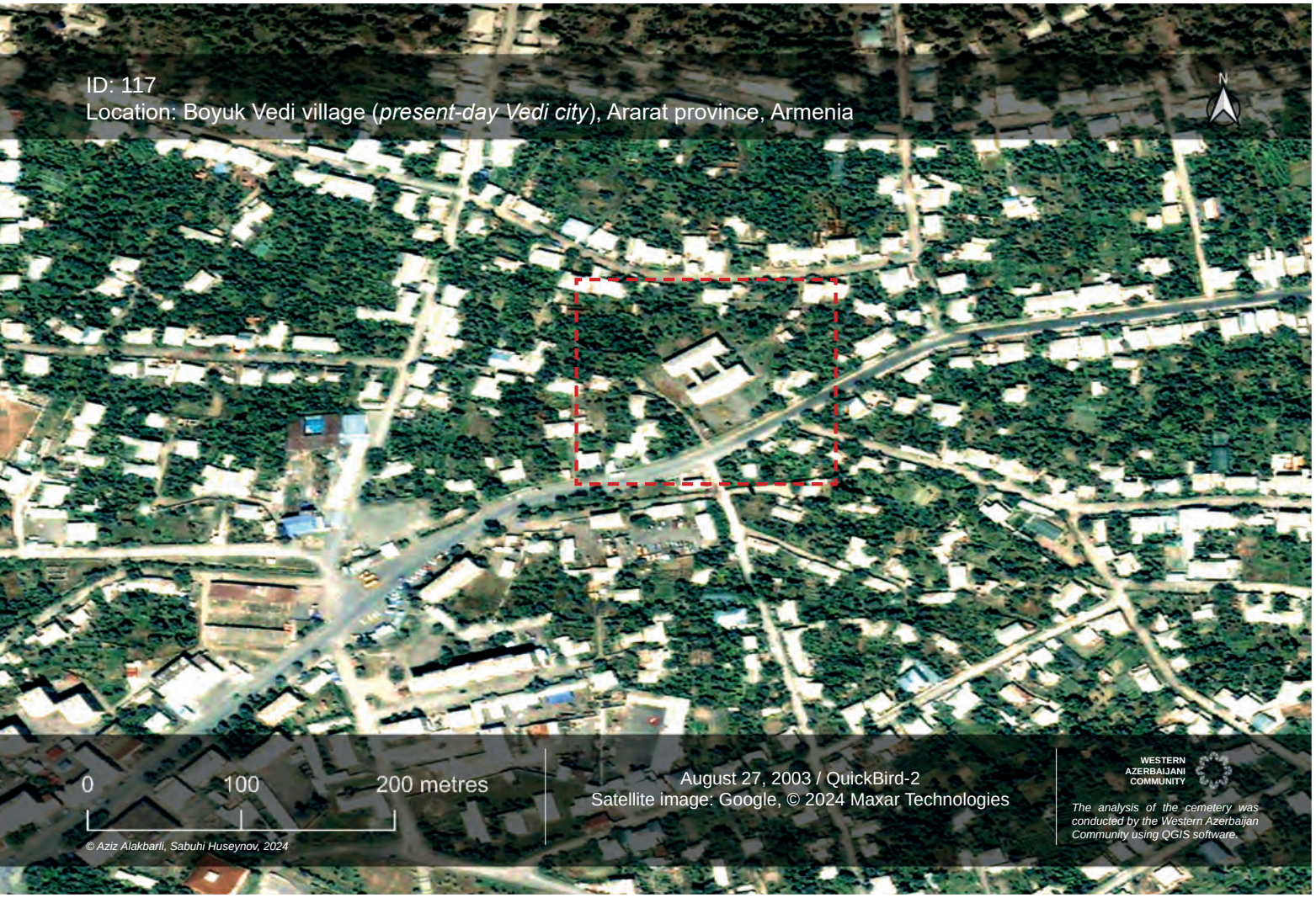
The cemetery is located in the center of the village. This site is marked on German and Soviet topographic maps from 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[14] and 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1973 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. Fahrettin Kïrzïoghlu, *Osmanlï`larïn Kafkas-Elleri`ni fethi (1451-1590)*, Doktora Tezi, (Ankara, 1976), 108.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 99.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 131.
4. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
5. *Haraj*, 13 July 1920, no. 146, 4.
6. Iurii Kliuchnikov and Andrei Sabanin, *Mezhdunarodnaia politika noveishego vremeni v dogovorakh, notakh i deklaratsiiakh,* Ch. III, Vyp. II (Moskva: Izd. Litizdata N.K.I.D., 1929), 75-76.
7. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 154-155.
8. *Azärbayjanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 375,487, 588, 681.
9. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi Azärbayjan abidäläri* (Baku: "Aghrïdagh" , 2006), 31.
10. *Corona, DS1011-1040DA140*, October 08, 1964, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100170A01*, July 3, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. August 27, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
13. July 12, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17. *Ararat* [map], 1:84000, 1918.
15. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.

ID: 117
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 117
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

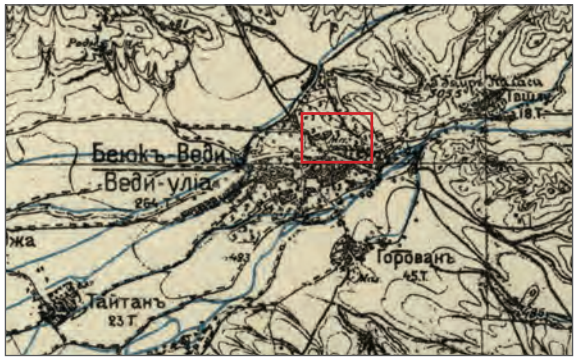

ID: 117
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 117
Location: Boyuk Vedi village (*present-day Vedi city*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
July 12, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

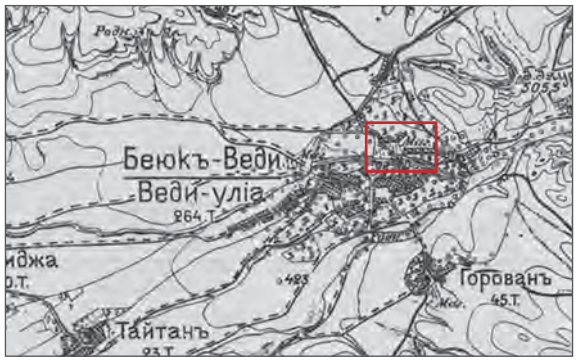
1918

The cemetery was marked on a 1:84,000 scale military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and re-printed in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

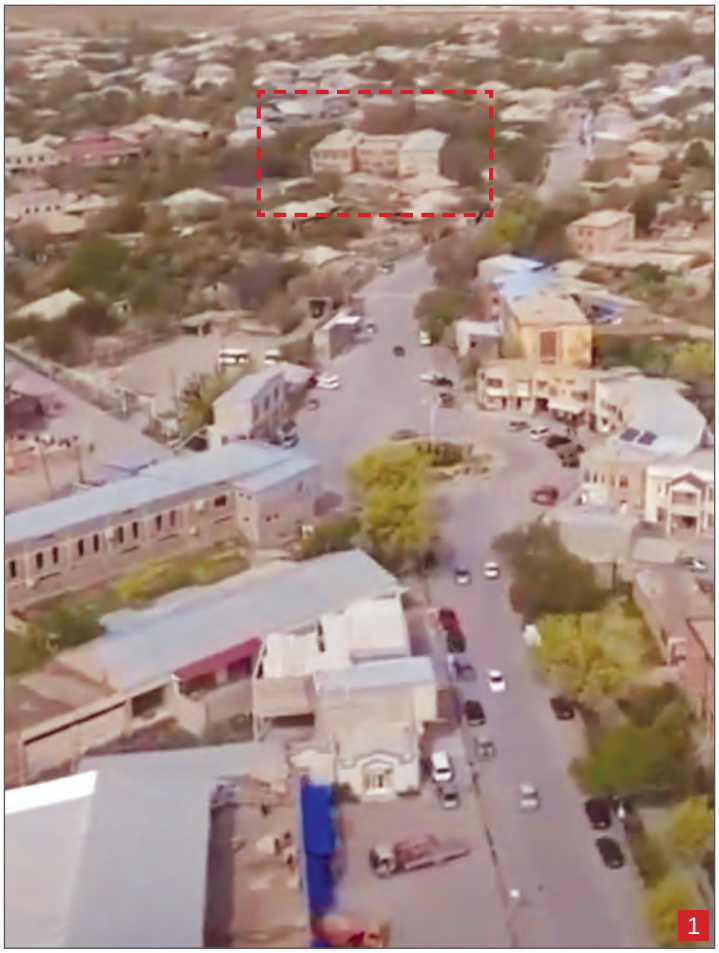


1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY: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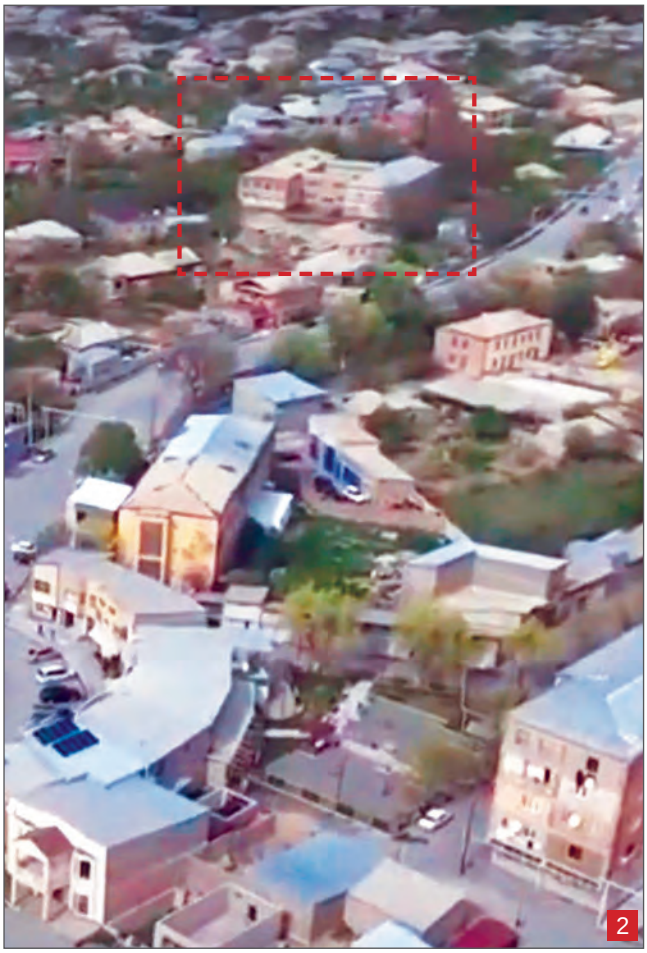
2

From 1989 to 2003

Status: OBLITERATED

Chimankend (Garabaghlar) Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Chimankend village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Urtsadzor village (Armenian)
ID: 012 [MC-498], 39.920327, 44.828994

Chimankend was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the Jighindara area, on the bank of the Vedi river, near Ashaghi Garabaghlar village. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] The village was also known by other names, including Garabaghlar and Chiman. Subsequent statistical records demonstrate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1879 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Chimankend village, which had previously been part of the Vedichay village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On July 12, 1920, Chimankend village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[7] The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Chimankend within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1922, 880 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. In the same year, the government of the Armenian SSR also resettled 210 Armenian refugees in the village. In 1926, 690 Azerbaijanis and 141 Armenians were residing in Chimankend.[9] In 1950, 543 Azerbaijanis from the village were deported to the Yevlakh district, followed by another 141 in 1951.[10] However, many Azerbaijanis later returned and resettled in the village. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated January 25, 1978, Chimankend village was renamed Urtsadzor.[11]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Chimankend village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[12] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis results, the cemetery covered an area of approximately 1 hectare, characterized primarily by a heterogeneous, patchy surface, with tombstones observed in its eastern section.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 27, 2003[13] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2003. It was determined that individual houses and their adjoining agricultural plots were located within the cemetery area. The 2023[14] satellite imagery confirmed that the destruction of the site had occurred many years earlier.

Thus, it was established that the cemetery area was entirely obliterated between 1989 and 2003. This was not an ordinary case of random land-use change, but rather a deliberate act of converting the land for residential or domestic purposes. As a result, the historical traces of Azerbaijanis were erased, and their material, cultural, and spiritual values were lost.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the eastern part of the village, 350 meters south of the Vedi river. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[15] and 1981 (1:100,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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14. September 03, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
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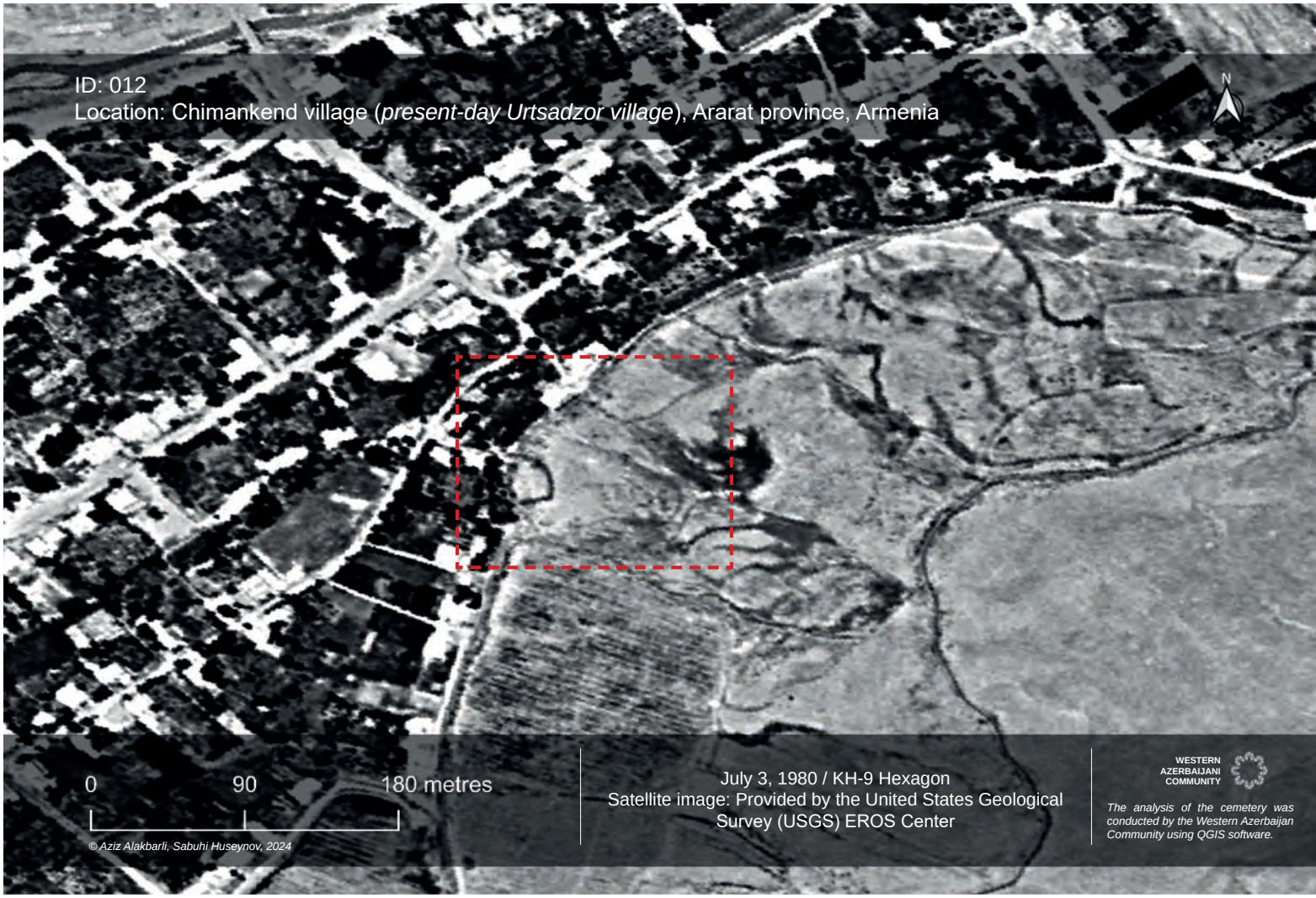
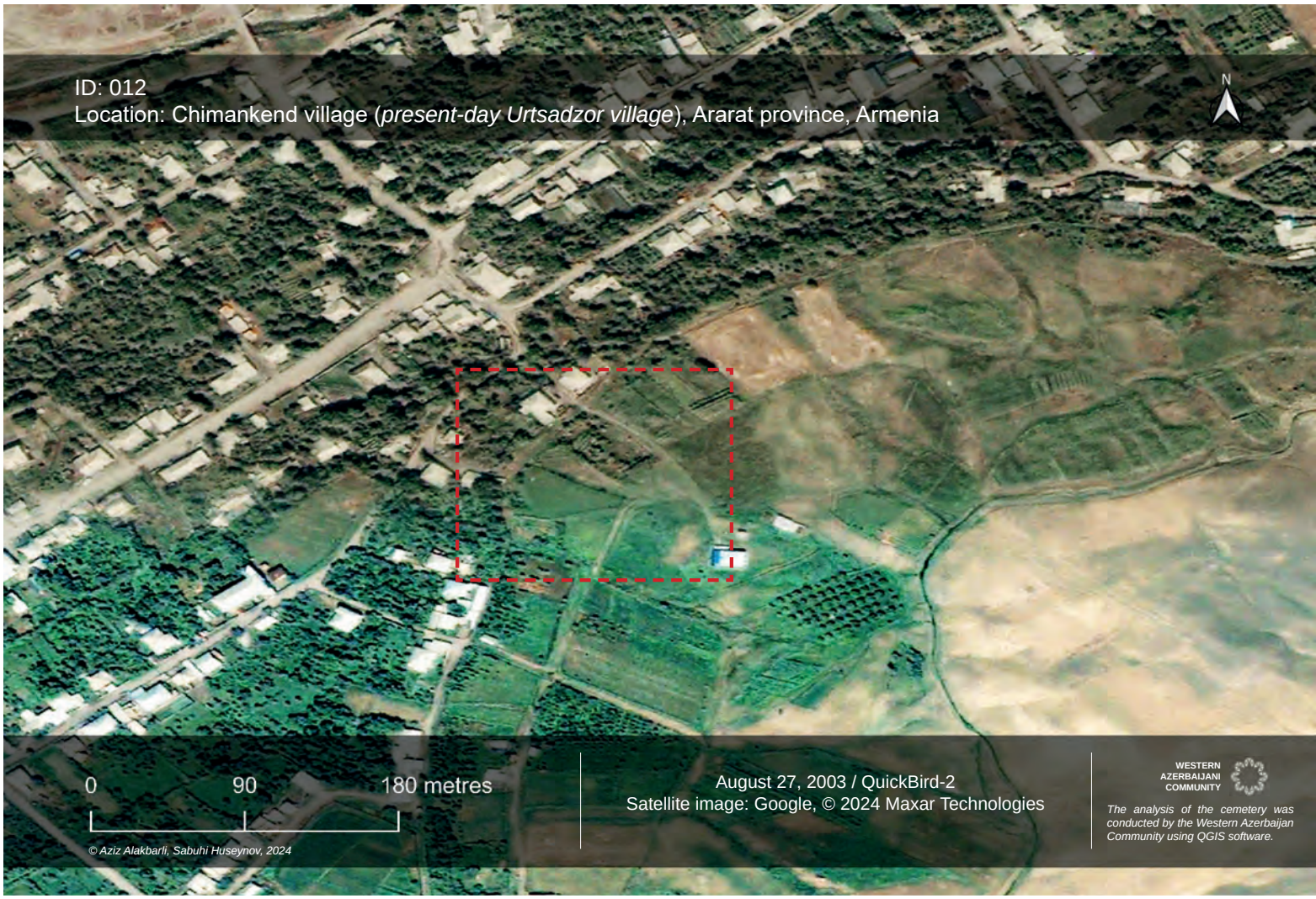
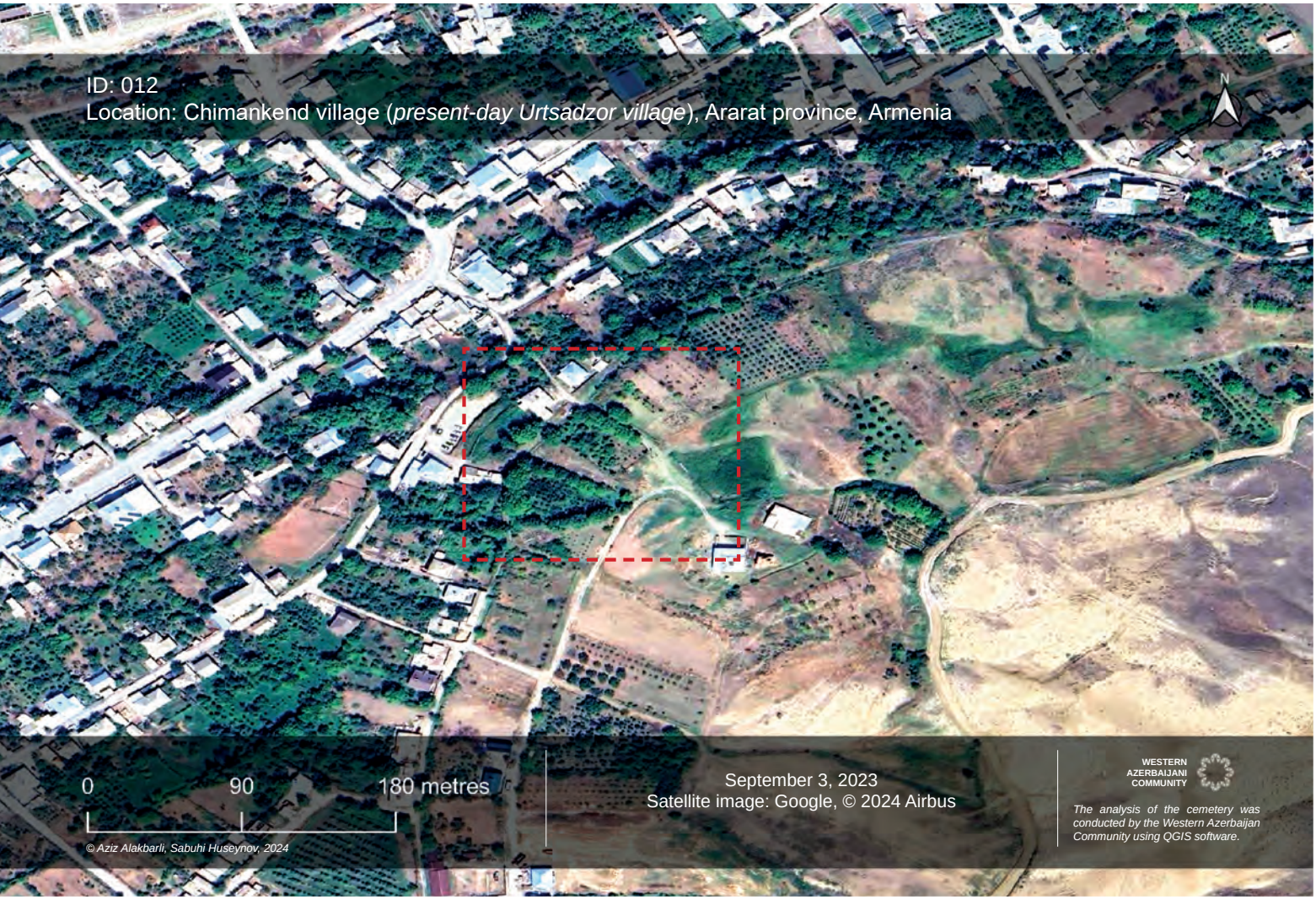
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000,1981.


ID: 012
Location: Chimankend village (present-day Urtsadzor village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

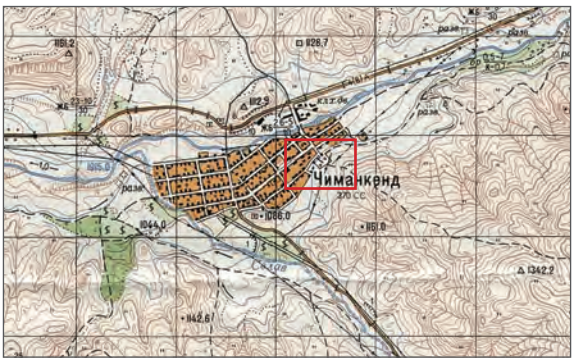

ID: 012
Location: Chimankend village (present-day Urtsadzor village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 012
Location: Chimankend village (*present-day Urtsadzor village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
September 3, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

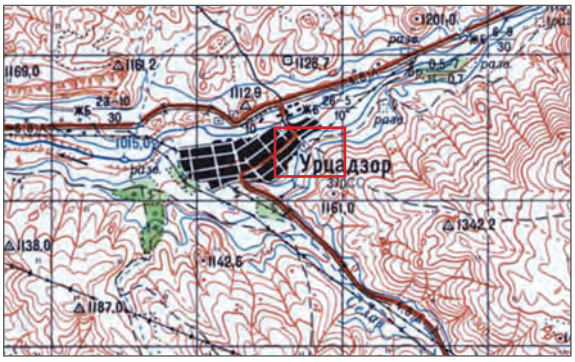
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

© Google Earth, 2024. Satellite image © Airbus, September 2023.

© Google, 2024. Image © Garik, July 2020. Accessed via Google Maps.

From 1989 to 2003

Status: DESTROYED

Dahnaz Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Dahnaz village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Urtsadzor Eco Center (Armenian)
ID: 156 [MC-031], 39.948517, 44.888135

Dahnaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the Jighindara area, on the bank of the Vedi river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as Tinas as early as the 16th century.[1] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 389 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Kurds" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Dahnaz village, previously part of the Vedichay village commune[3] within 4th police district of Iravan *uezd* in the Iravan Governorate, was placed within the borders of Armenia, by the decision of a joint commission dated July 5, 1918.[4] However, the village population did not accept this rule. Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On December 5, 1918, and again on January 20–21, 1919, the population of Dahnaz village came under Armenian attack.[7] A portion of the population was brutally massacred, while the survivors fled the village, only to return after a period of time. On July 12, 1920, Dahnaz village once again came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[8] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Dahnaz village within its new administrative boundaries.[9]

After 1921, only 60 Turks and 36 Muslim Kurds returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. However, by 1948, the remaining population had been forced to relocate to surrounding villages. The village once again fell into ruin. Following 1948, the residents of Dahnaz, along with those from nearby villages, were deported to the Azerbaijan SSR. In later years, a few families returned and resettled in neighboring villages.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.4 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. The site was enclosed by a fence. It was established that a separate road had been constructed from the Vedi–Azizkend highway leading to the cemetery. An 80-meter section of this dirt road runs directly through the center of the cemetery.

Following the deportation of Azerbaijani residents from surrounding villages, the condition of the cemetery was first reported in 2019 by Armenian journalist Narina Kirakosyan. Footage she recorded at the site revealed that the entire cemetery had been subjected to vandalism and had been severely damaged. The area was privatized by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets, and it was confirmed that this entity was responsible for the destruction of the cemetery. The cemetery belonging to Azerbaijanis was privatized with the involvement of state authorities of the Republic of Armenia, turning it into private property. It was later revealed that the leadership of the foundation that owned the land had made the decision to demolish the cemetery. This process of destruction continued for many years and only became known to the public in 2019.[12]

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 1980 and August 27, 2003[13] (QuickBird-2) revealed that the cemetery had been completely destroyed by the latter date. Earthmoving operations had been carried out on the site, and a new dirt road was constructed through the middle of the cemetery. Traces of bulldozers were identified in the southeastern section, and no shadows of tombstones were visible. These findings confirmed that the cemetery was destroyed between 1989 and 2003.

Satellite imagery dated September 30, 2023[14] (Airbus) enabled an assessment of the cemetery's most recent condition. After information about the site appeared in the media, the area was fenced off and the destruction was halted at an unspecified date between 2019 and 2023.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery lies to the left of the Vedi–Kolanli road, 100 meters north of it. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1974 (1:50,000 scale)[15]. Using the coordinates from the 1974 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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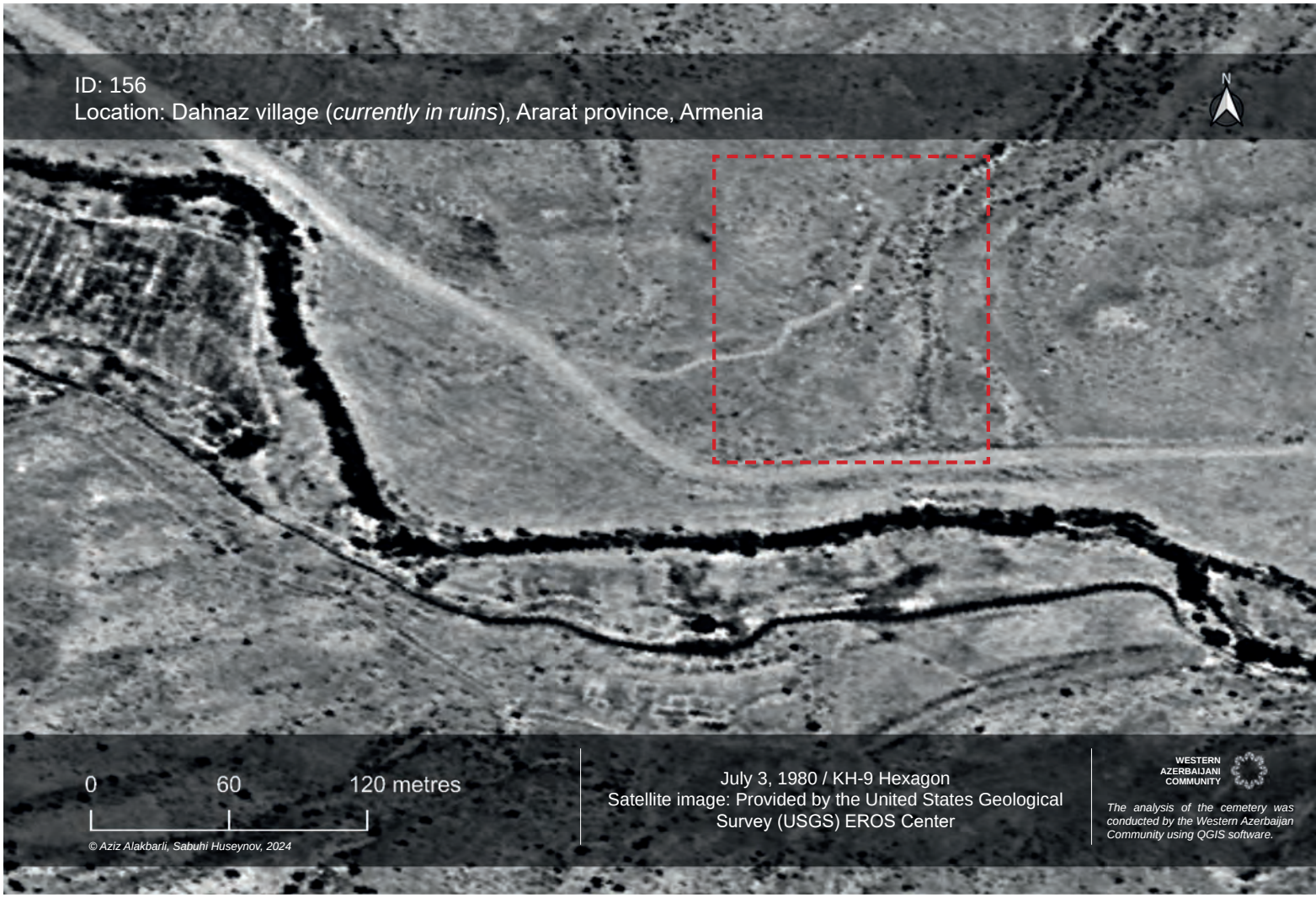
13. August 10, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. September 30, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
15. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-6-B (*Chimankend*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1974.


ID: 156
Location: Dahnaz village (*currently in ruins*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

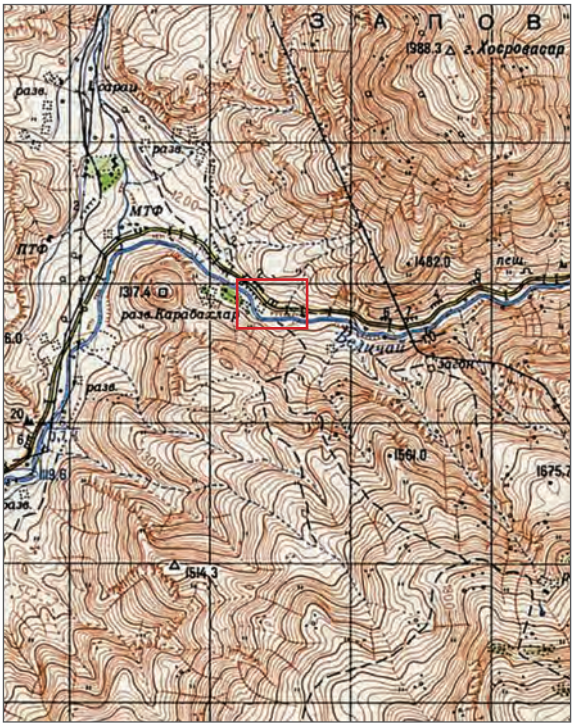
ID: 156
Location: Dahnaz village (*currently in ruins*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 156
Location: Dahnaz village (*currently in ruins*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 30, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

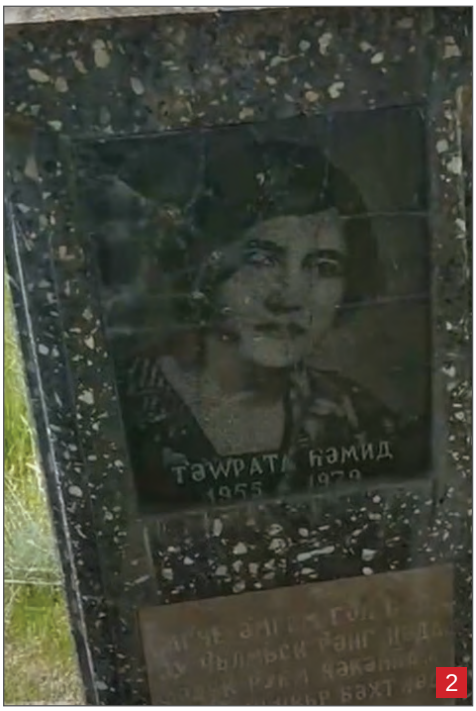
1974

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1974 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1



2

3

4

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6

7

From 1989 to 1991

Status: OBLITERATED

Garalar Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Garalar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Aralez village (Armenian)
ID: 004 [MC-359], 39.897869, 44.659707

Garalar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the Iğdır plain. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 256 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Garalar village, which had previously been part of the Shikhlar village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On July 12, 1920, Garalar village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[7] Beginning in 1920, Armenian refugees from present-day Iran, and during 1920–1921 from present-day Turkiye, were resettled in the village. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Garalar village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 241 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside 273 Armenian refugees.[9] By 1939, the number of Azerbaijani population had grown to 780. In 1946, Armenians classified as "repatriates" (these Armenians had never previously lived in the Caucasus, A.A., S.H.) were also settled in Garalar village from the territories of present-day Iran and Lebanon. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Garalar village was renamed Aralez.[10]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garalar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[11] and July 3, 1980[12] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 4 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. This indicated that the cemetery was well preserved by Azerbaijanis.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 27, 2003[13] (Quickbird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2003. To narrow the timeframe and pinpoint approximate dates of this obliteration, the authors tracked vegetation changes in the area from 1989 to 2003, using Landsat-5 satellite imagery. It was determined that while NDVI values ranged between 0.1 and 0.2 in 1989, by 1991 they had increased to 0.4–0.6, indicating that the area had been cultivated with agricultural crops. The analysis indicates that complete demolition of the cemetery occurred between 1990 and 1991.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located to the southeast of Garalar village. This site was marked on a German topographic map published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[14], and Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[15], and 1981 (1:50,000[16] and 1:100,000[17] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1973 and 1980 and determined its precise coordinates.

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ID: 004
Location: Garalar village (*present-day Aralez village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 004
Location: Garalar village (*present-day Aralez village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 004
Location: Garalar village (*present-day Aralez village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
Land used as garden plot
4 ha
0
90
180 metres
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
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ID: 004
Location: Garalar village (*present-day Aralez village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
July 31, 2022 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
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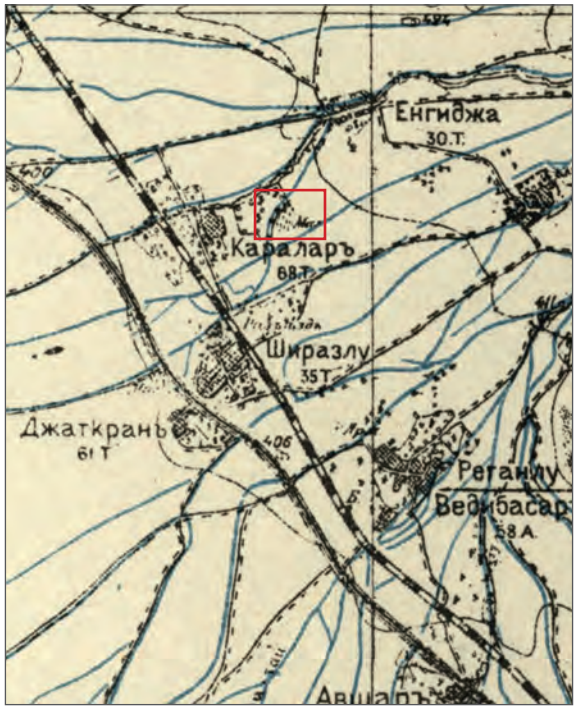
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

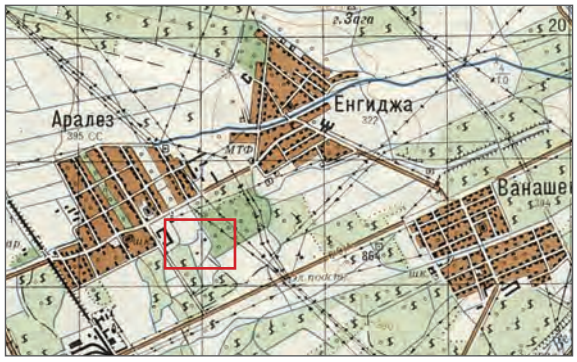


1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

Goravan Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Goravan village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Goravan village (Armenian)
ID: 074 [MC-158], 39.903903, 44.735279

Goravan was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located east of Boyuk Vedi village. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as Kuravan as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*).

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Goravan village, which had previously been part of the *Vedichay* village commune[2] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[3] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[4] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[5] On July 12, 1920, Goravan village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[6] Armenian refugees from *Mush* and *Van* areas of the Ottoman Empire were subsequently resettled in the village. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Goravan village within its new administrative boundaries.[7] In 1921, 393 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside 164 Armenian refugees.[8] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 4, 1944, Goravan village was renamed Yenikend. In 1948, 569 Azerbaijani residents of the village were deported to the Gishi village of the Martuni district (present-day Khojavand district, A.A., S.H.) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[9] Armenians relocated from abroad were settled in the village. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated July 3, 1968, the village was renamed Goravan.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1973[11] and July 3, 1980[12] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis, the cemetery covered an area of 4.46 hectares. Most of the tombstones were identified in the southern section, while in other parts of the site, they were identified through a heterogeneous surface pattern. Certain portions of the area show signs of alteration. By this period, as the village population had become exclusively Armenian, a new Armenian cemetery was established to the west of the Azerbaijani cemetery.

Drawing on an analysis of satellite imagery and the latest Soviet-era topographic maps, the authors conclude that the destruction of the Azerbaijani cemetery commenced in the late Soviet period. Contemporary satellite imagery indicates the presence of a farm in the eastern section of the cemetery and a structure of unidentified purpose in its central part. However, satellite imagery dated June 12, 2023[13] (Airbus) shows that while the cemetery's layout remains discernible, no tombstones are visible on the site. Analysis conducted on photographic imagery of the area confirms that no tombstones remain within the cemetery.

Accordingly, the findings indicate that the cemetery was entirely obliterated between 1980 and 1989. The use of the site for industrial facilities and other constructions has eliminated the possibility of restoring this historical monument. The obliteration of the Azerbaijani cemetery in Goravan village constitutes not only the erasure of Azerbaijani historical heritage but also a deliberate act of cultural genocide targeting the region's ethnic and religious diversity.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the southern part of the village. This site was marked on German and Soviet topographic and military-topographic maps published in 1918 (scale1:84,000)[14], 1931 (1:42,000)[15], and 1981 (1:50,000[16] and 1:100,000[17]). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1973 and 1980 and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 131
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4. BOA, MHD, no.460, ll.1-5.
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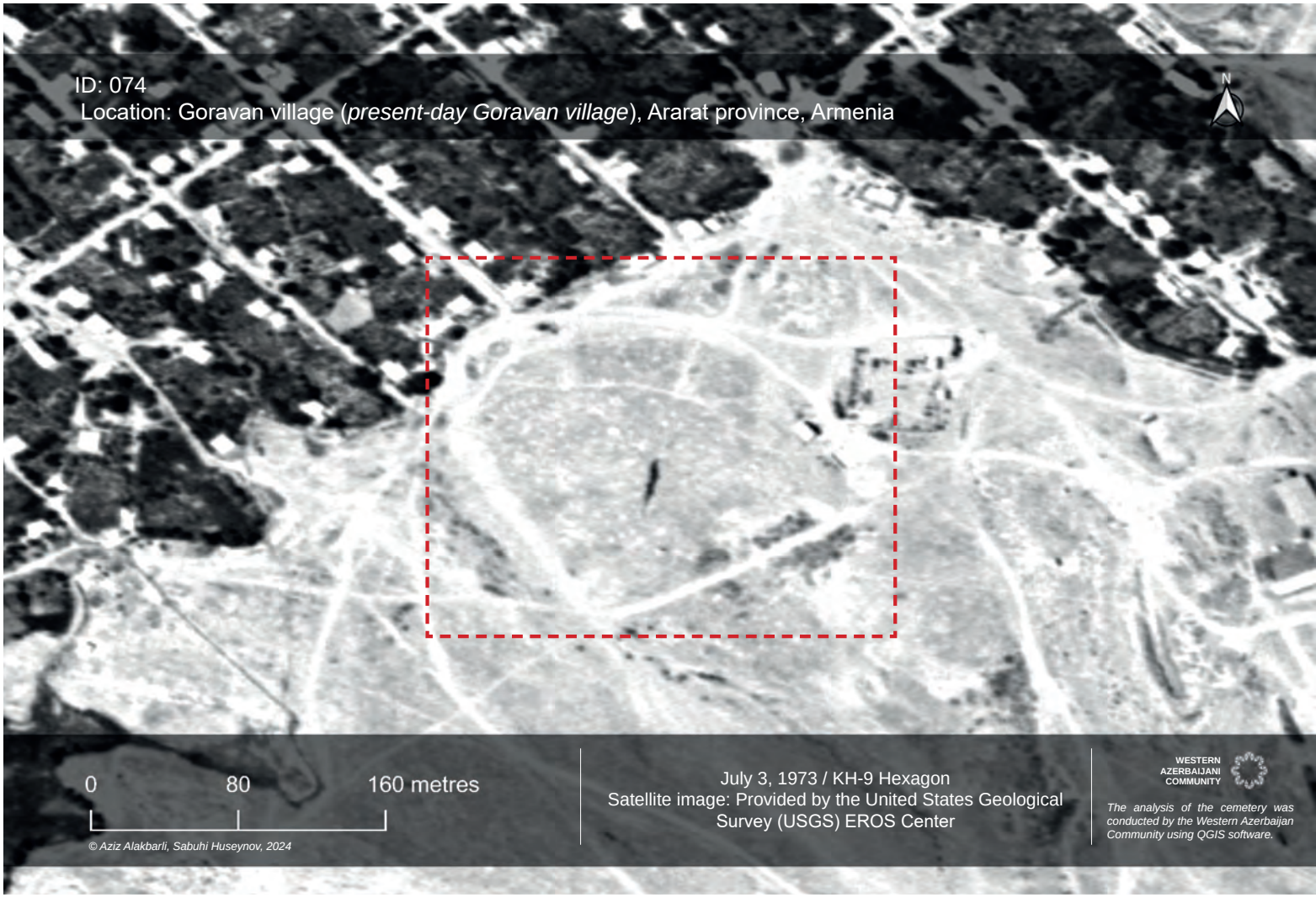
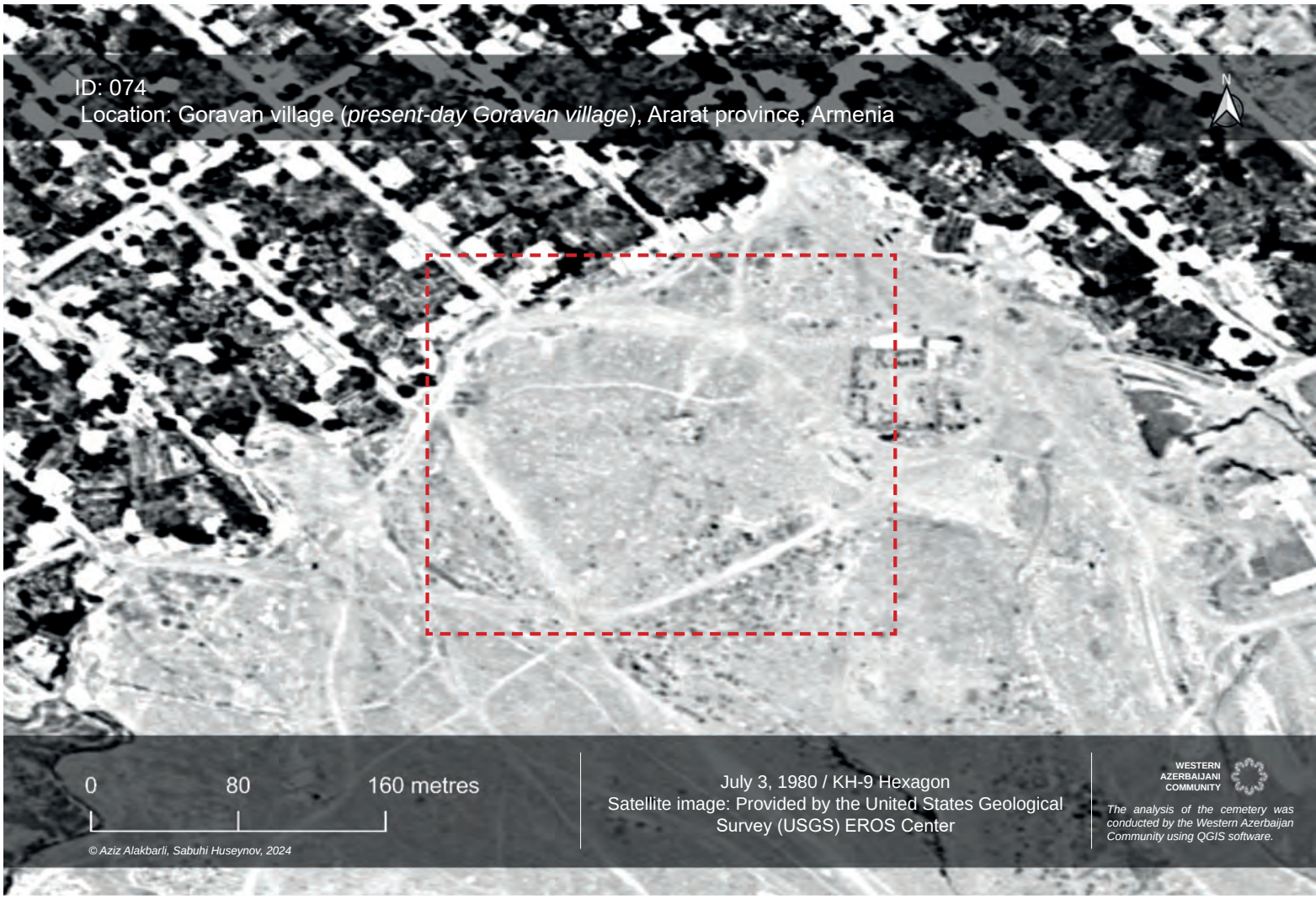
9. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär*), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 243.
10. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi Sovetskoi Sotsialisticheskoi Respubliki,* no. 13 (418) (Erevan: Verkhovny Sovet Armianskoy SSR, 1968), 390.
11. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100170A01,* July 3, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
12. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A003*, July 3, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
13. June 12, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
14. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17. *Ararat* [map], scale 1:84,000. 1918.
15. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6-A (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1981.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.


ID: 074
Location: Goravan village (*present-day Goravan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 074
Location: Goravan village (*present-day Goravan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 074
Location: Goravan village (present-day Goravan village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 11, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

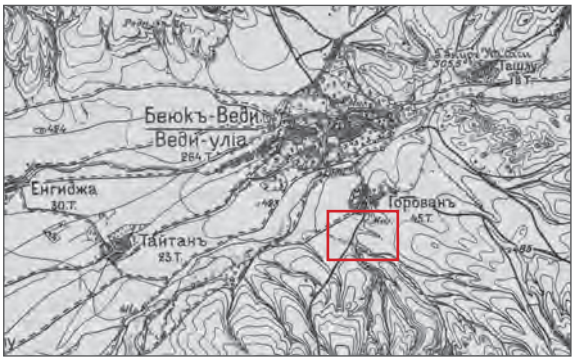
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

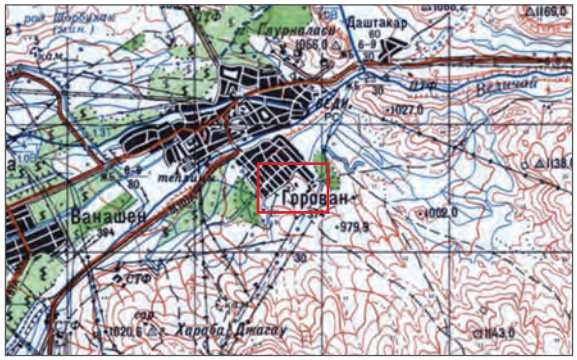
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



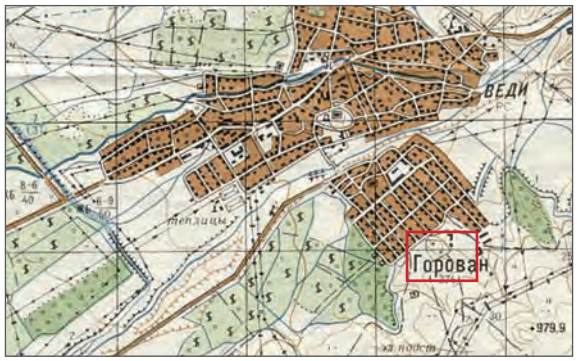
1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

From 1995 to 1997

Status: OBLITERATED

Jadgiran Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Jadgiran village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Vosketap village (Armenian)
ID: 005 [MC-358], 39.884326, 44.644965

Jadgiran was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located west of Shirazli village. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to Jadgiran village as early as the 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 191 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

From May 28, 1918 onward, Jadgiran village, which had previously been part of the Shikhlar village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was recognized as an *undisputed* territory within the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[4] On July 11, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing the population to abandon the village, which was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[5] A group of 160 Armenian refugees from the territory of present-day Turkiye was resettled in the village. During Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Jadgiran within its new administrative boundaries.[6] In 1921, 188 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began to live alongside Armenians.[7] Jadgiran village was dissolved in 1935 and merged with Shirazli village.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On May 11, 1988, the residents of Jadgiran village, along with the Azerbaijani inhabitants of Shirazli village, took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[8]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[9] and July 3, 1980[10] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.98 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. The tomb structures and the overall area were in good condition, with no evidence of vandalism or deliberate damage to the cemetery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 27, 2003[11] (Quickbird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that, by 2003, the tombstones had either been destroyed or looted. The surface of the area had been leveled, and fruit orchards had been established. Satellite imagery from 1989–1995 showed NDVI values ranging between 0.1 and 0.2, indicating that the area had not yet been used for agricultural purposes. From 1997 onward, an increase in NDVI values was observed. During this period, the cemetery was completely obliterated, and fruit orchards were planted in its place. In 2013, the Armenian Church held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Armenian church on the site of the cemetery.[12] This was confirmed by a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and 2012[13] (WorldView-2). An analysis of satellite imagery dated 2012 and 2022[14] (CNES/Airbus) showed that construction of the church had been completed and that the building activity on the cemetery site was carried out with long-term intent. The commissioning of the church was confirmed by Armenian media reports covering its consecration[15] (Images Nos. 5–6).

Thus, the damage inflicted on this Azerbaijani cemetery, which was over 400 years old, is complete and irreversible. The cemetery area was repurposed for agricultural use, and a new religious structure was constructed over the site. This case clearly demonstrates the criminal intent not only of the Armenian state but also of the Armenian Church in the deliberate destruction of Azerbaijani historical heritage and the erasure of Azerbaijani cultural memory.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the northwestern part of Shirazli village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[16], 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[17], and 1981 (1:50,000[18] and 1:100,000[19]). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1973 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A003*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
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13. *WorldView-2*, July 16, 2012, Maxar via Google Earth.
14. *WorldView-3*, July 31, 2022, Maxar via Esri Map.
15. https://shoghakat.am/am/telecasts/26281
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17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6-A (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1981.
19. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.

ID: 005
Location: Jadgiran village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

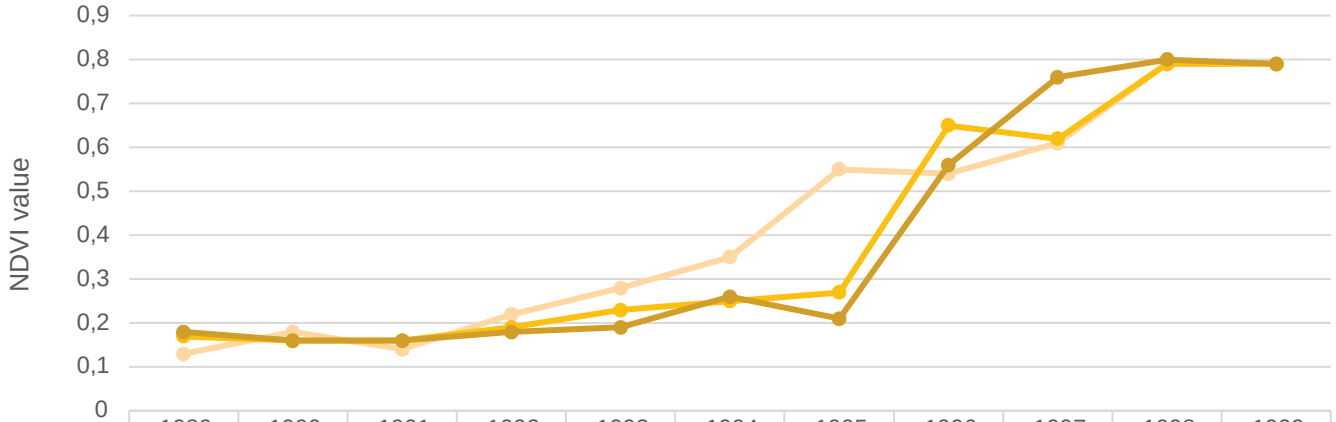
ID: 005
Location: Jadgiran village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 005
Location: Jadgiran village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
The cemetery site was replaced with an orchard
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 005
Location: Jadgiran village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2012 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies

ID: 005
Location: Jadgiran village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
Armenian church built over cemetery
0
100
200 metres
July 31, 2022 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

Temporal Profile of Vegetation Cover



	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
May	0,13	0,18	0,14	0,22	0,28	0,35	0,55	0,54	0,61	0,79	0,79
June	0,17	0,16	0,16	0,19	0,23	0,25	0,27	0,65	0,62	0,79	0,79
July	0,18	0,16	0,16	0,18	0,19	0,26	0,21	0,56	0,76	0,8	0,79

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

The cemetery was marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and re-printed in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

5

6

© Shoghakat TV, March, 2022.

© Google, 2024. Image © Armenia360, September 2018. Accessed via Google Maps.

From 1995 to 1997

Status: OBLITERATED

Khalisa Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Khalisa village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Noyakert village (Armenian)
ID: 022 [MC-008], 39.8365273,44.6552526

Khalisa was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the *Iğdır* plain, 10 km southwest of Boyuk Vedi village. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as Khalisa village as early as the first half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 975 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Khalisa village, which had previously been part of the Davali village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] In November 1918, Khalisa village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[7] However, following armed resistance by the Azerbaijanis, the Armenians retreated to the northern bank of the Vedi river. On July 12, 1920, Khalisa village once again came under Armenian attack and was occupied by Armenian forces.[8] Following this date, Armenian refugees arriving from territories of the Ottoman Empire were settled in the village. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Khalisa village within its new administrative boundaries.[9] In 1921, 311 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside 290 Armenian refugees.[10] In 1953, 296 Azerbaijanis from Khalisa village were deported to the Jdanov district (present-day Beylagan district, A.A., S.H.) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11] Some of these deportees later returned to the village. In 1971, 2,135 Azerbaijanis lived in Khalisa.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Khalisa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Khalisa village was renamed Noyakert.[12]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1973[13] and July 3, 1980[14] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 4 hectares (4.089 ha), with tombstones identified on the site. The site was enclosed by a fence. A separate access road to the cemetery was constructed from Khalisa village. Tall trees were identified along the perimeter of the cemetery fence. Analysis of the imagery indicates that the cemetery was well preserved during this period and remained under the care of the Azerbaijani population.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 27, 2003[15] (QuickBird-2) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. It was determined that 2.44 hectares of the site had been plowed with heavy machinery and repurposed as agricultural land, while the northern section had suffered extensive destruction.

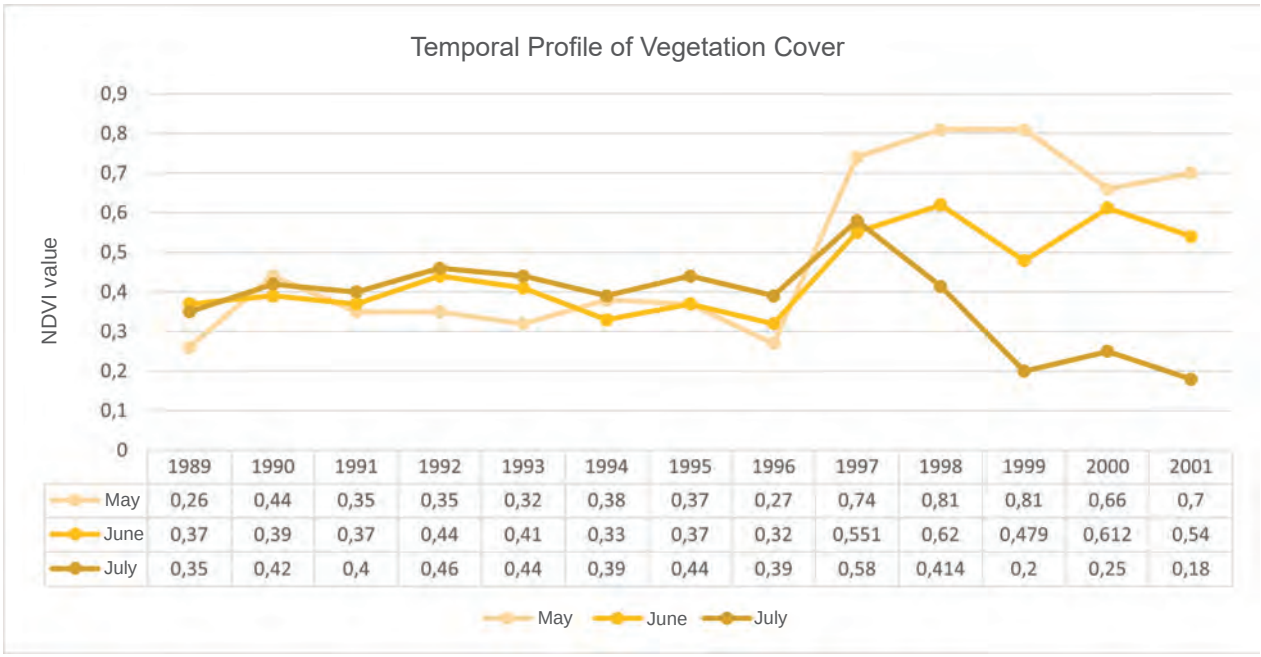
To narrow down the timeframe and pinpoint approximate dates of this obliteration, the authors tracked vegetation changes in the area from 1989 to 2001, using Landsat-5 satellite imagery. It was determined that while NDVI values ranged between 0.26 and 0.37 in 1989, by 1997 they had increased to 0.6–0.7, indicating that the area had been cultivated with agricultural crops. The analysis indicates that complete demolition of the cemetery occurred in 1996 and 1997.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and August 4, 2009[16] (Maxar) revealed that 2,780 square meters (0.27 ha) of the eastern part of the cemetery had been obliterated and converted into agricultural land.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2009 and August 8, 2020[17] (WorldView-3) showed that the cemetery area remained unchanged during this period.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2020 and August 18, 2021[18] (WorldView-3) confirmed that tombstones located in the eastern part of the cemetery had been obliterated, and an additional 3,000 square meters (0.3 ha) of land had been plowed and repurposed for agricultural use.

Analysis of satellite imagery further shows that between 1988 and 2021, 3.018 hectares of the 4.089-hectare cemetery area were leveled by bulldozers and converted into farmland. The remaining 1.071 hectares that survived into the modern period had been subjected to extensive vandalism and looting up to 2003. However, due to the lack



	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
May	0,26	0,44	0,35	0,35	0,32	0,38	0,37	0,27	0,74	0,81	0,81	0,66	0,7
June	0,37	0,39	0,37	0,44	0,41	0,33	0,37	0,32	0,551	0,62	0,479	0,612	0,54
July	0,35	0,42	0,4	0,46	0,44	0,39	0,44	0,39	0,58	0,414	0,2	0,25	0,18

of recent photographic evidence, the authors were unable to assess the extent of the damage caused by vandalism in this part of the cemetery. The comparative analysis of satellite imagery revealed displaced grave slabs, the disappearance of shadows cast by headstones, and an increase in scattered fragments of tombstones across the area, providing grounds to infer a severe act of vandalism.

Thus, the cemetery in Khalisa village covered an area of 4.089 hectares up until the late 1988. By 1996–1997, approximately half of the Azerbaijani cemetery had been lost. This destruction occurred as a result of the land being repurposed for agricultural use, leading to the eradication of tombstones.

The obliteration of this ancient cemetery, used by the Muslim population since the 12th century, has inflicted not only irreparable damage on the historical heritage of the Azerbaijani people, but also on the historical legacy of the region. The elimination of tombstones resulted in the loss of the cemetery's deep historical and cultural significance. The inability of Azerbaijanis to visit the graves of their families and the denial of their right to return to their village has negatively affected both their personal and national identity.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 125 meters northwest of Khalisa village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[19], 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[20], and 1981 (1:50,000[21] and 1:100,000[22]). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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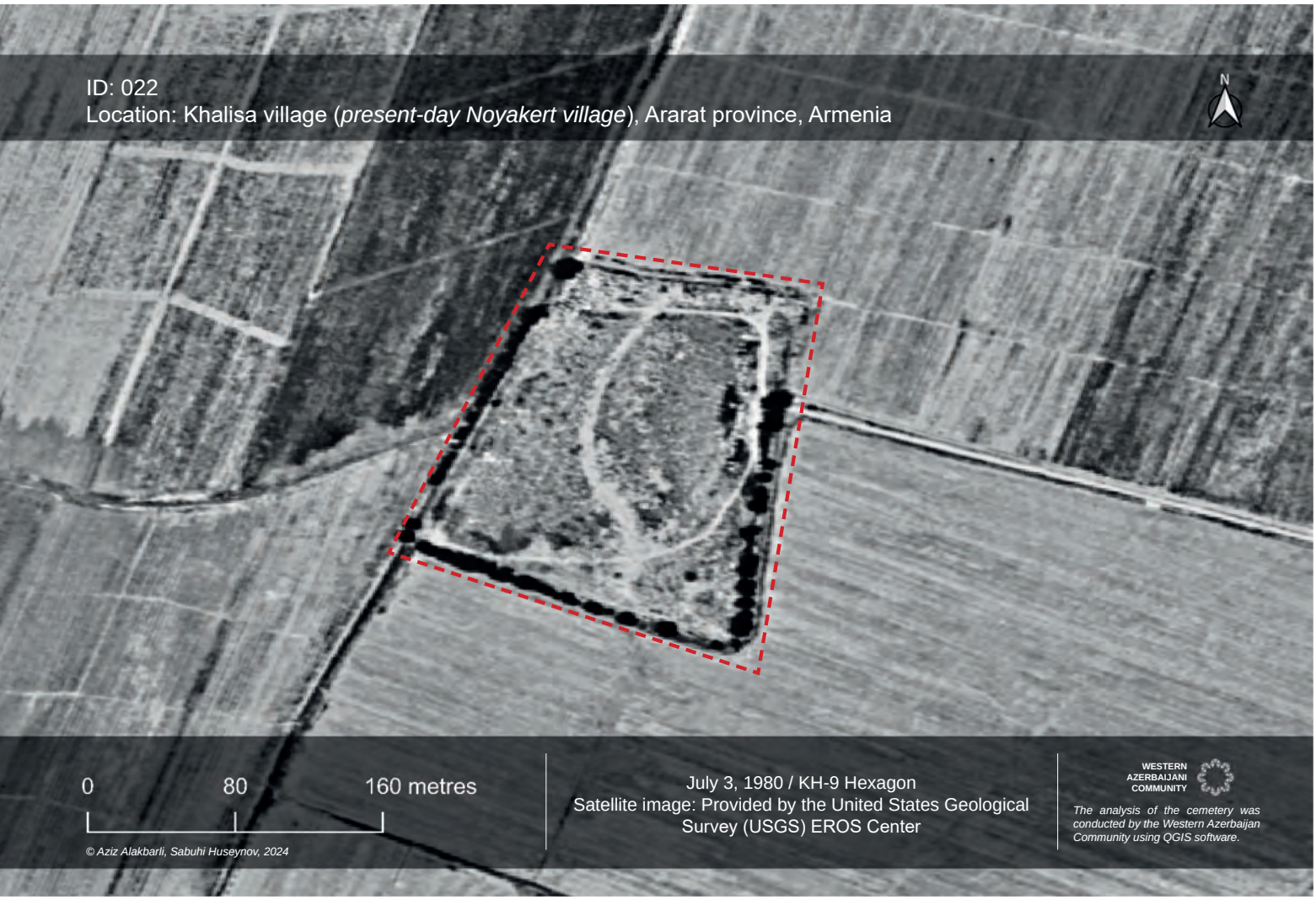
14. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100138A003*, July 3, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
15. August 27, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
16. August 04, 2009, Maxar via Google Earth.
17. *WorldView-3*, August 08, 2020, Maxar via Google Earth.
18. *WorldView-3*, October 12, 2021, Maxar via Google Earth.
19. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17. *Ararat* [map], scale 1:84,000. 1918.
20. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
21. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6-A (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1981.
22. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.

ID: 022
Location: Khalisa village (*present-day Noyakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 022
Location: Khalisa village (*present-day Noyakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 022
Location: Khalisa village (*present-day Noyakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
Destruction area
Land used for cultivation:
2.44 ha
Dirt road
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 022
Location: Khalisa village (*present-day Noyakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 2009 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

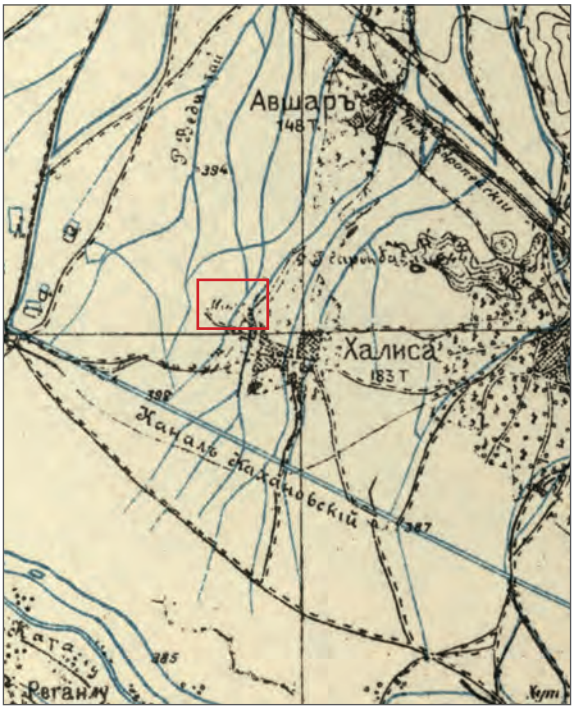
ID: 022
Location: Khalisa village (*present-day Noyakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
New cultivated land:
3,000 sq. m.
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 8, 2020 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 022
Location: Khalisa village (*present-day Noyakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 12, 2021 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

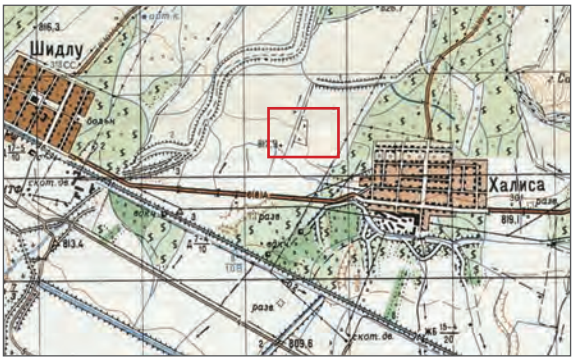


1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

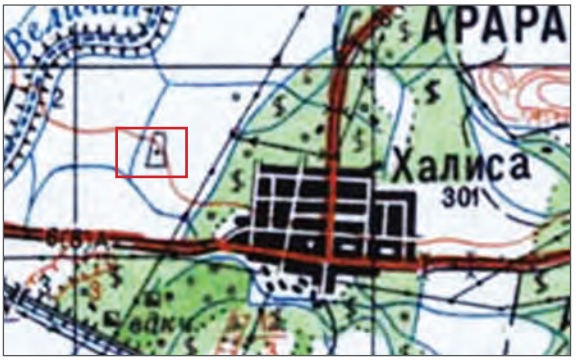
1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1967 to 2022

Status: OBLITERATED

Kichik Vedi Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Kichik Vedi village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Pokr Vedi village (Armenian)
ID: 007 [MC-240], 39.900537, 44.584945

Kichik Vedi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the *Iğdır* plain, approximately 15 km southwest of Boyuk Vedi settlement, on the bank of an irrigation canal branching from the Vedi river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to Kichik Vedi village as early as 1514.[1] The village was also referred to as Vedi-Sulfa (*meaning 'Lower Vedi', AA., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 976 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Kichik Vedi village, which had previously been part of the Shikhlar village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] In November 1918, Kichik Vedi village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[7] Armenian refugees were resettled in the village. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Kichik Vedi village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 286 Azerbaijanis returned to the village and began living alongside 193 Armenian refugees.[9] In 1950, 66 Azerbaijanis from the village were deported to Shamkhor district (present-day Shamkir district, A.A., S.H.) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[10] In the late 1980s, Armenians translated the word 'kichik (little) into Armenian, renaming the village Pokr Vedi.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Kichik Vedi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[11]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated May 26, 1967[12] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 6 hectares, characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern. The findings also show that the southern section of the historic cemetery, which had been in use in the region since the 16th century, was destroyed and converted into farmland by 1967. A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 1967 and July 3, 1980[13] (KH-9 Hexagon) reveals that by the latter date, an additional 1.3 hectares of the cemetery had been destroyed and transformed into farmland.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 28, 2007[14] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that 1.5 hectares of the cemetery area was obliterated between 1989 and 2009.

Further comparison of imagery from 2007 and July 31, 2022[15] (Maxar) shows that 0.4 hectares of the remaining 2.2-hectare area of the cemetery were also destroyed and incorporated into farmland. Although no tombstones were identified, a total of 1.8 hectares of the cemetery's ruins have survived into the present day.

Due to the absence of photographic imagery from the site, it is not possible to comment on tombstones within the remaining 1.8 hectares.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located 800 meters west of the village. This site was marked on a German topographic map published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[16], and Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[17], and 1981 (1:50,000[18] and 1:100,000[19] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 131.
4. BOA, HR.SYS, no.2375/7, ll.1-4.
5. BOA, MHD, no.460, ll.1-5.
6. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
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10. *Azärbayjanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 486,
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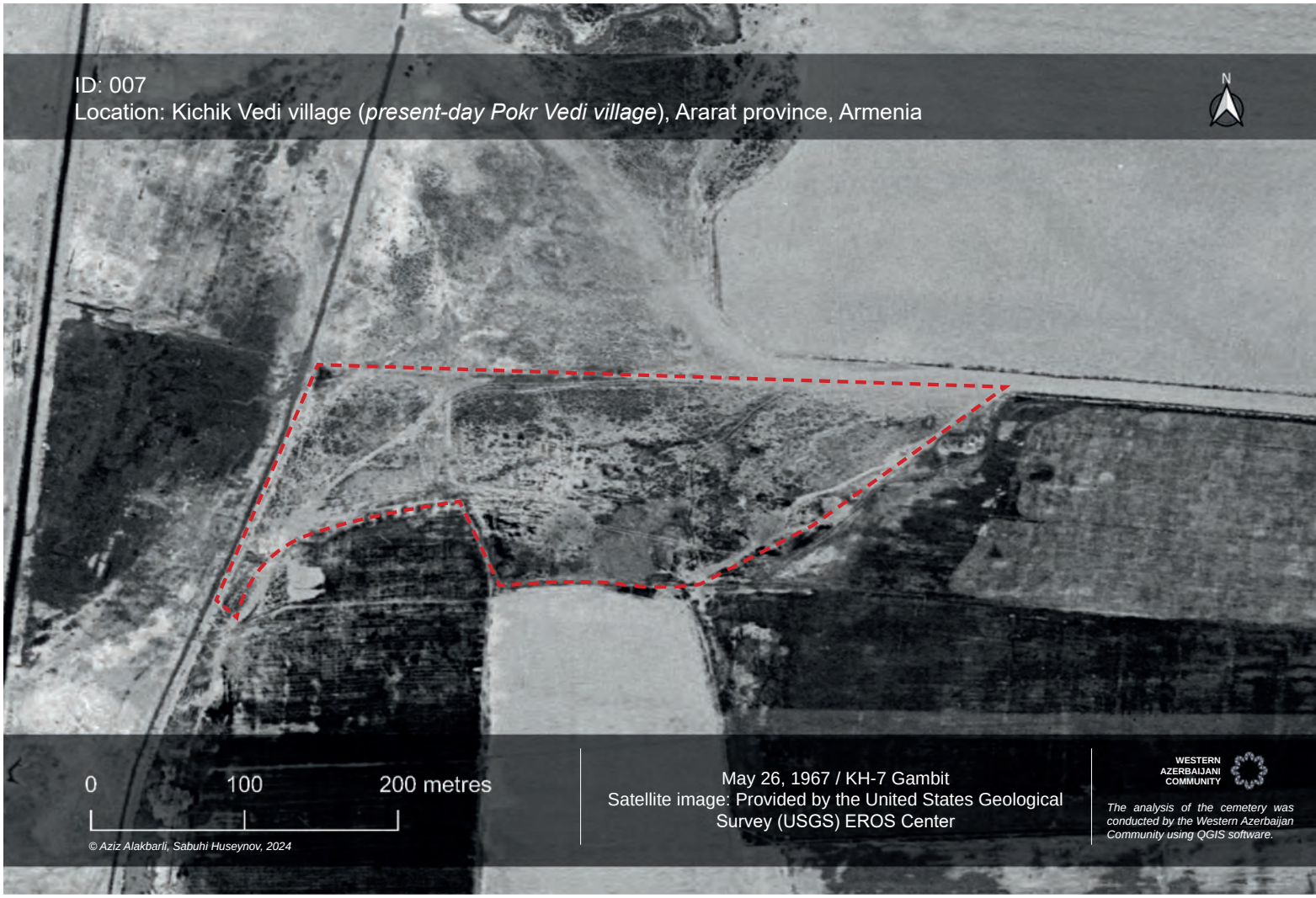
13. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A003*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
14. *QuickBird-2*, June 28, 2007, Maxar via Google Earth.
15. *WorldView-3*, July 31, 2022, Maxar via Esri Map.
16. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17. *Ararat* [map], scale 1:84,000. 1918.
17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6-A (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1981.
19. General'nyĭ Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.


ID: 007
Location: Kichik Vedi village (*present-day Pokr Vedi village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 26, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 007
Location: Kichik Vedi village (*present-day Pokr Vedi village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

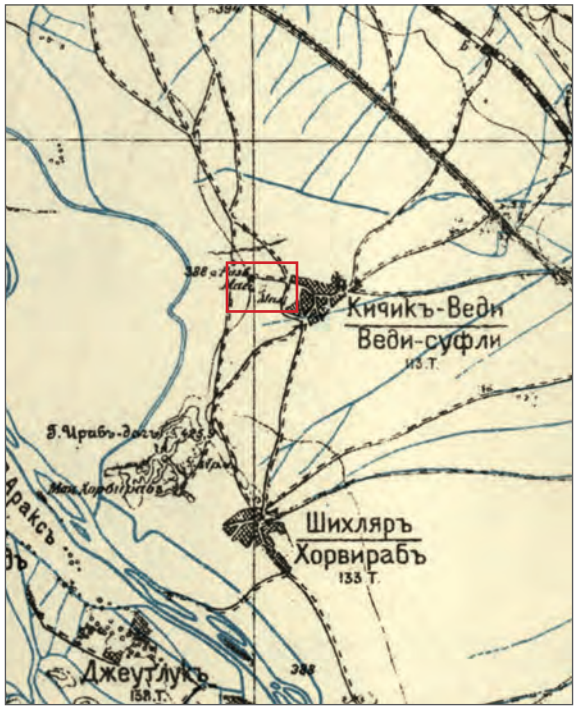
ID: 007
Location: Kichik Vedi village (*present-day Pokr Vedi village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
Land used for cultivation:
1.5 ha
0
100
200 metres
June 28, 2007/ QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 007
Location: Kichik Vedi village (*present-day Pokr Vedi village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
July 31, 2022 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

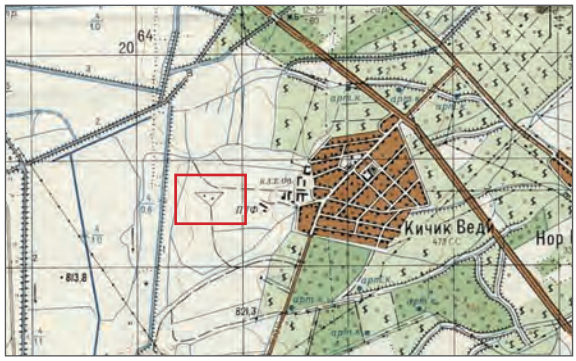


1931

Marked as a Muslim cemetery on a *1:40,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the USSR Military Topography Directorate.

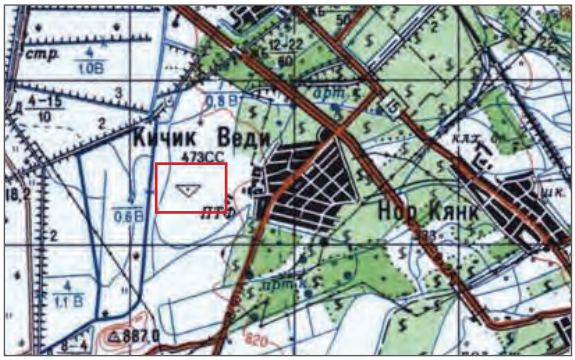
1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 2018 to 2020

Status: OBLITERATED

Shidli Village Old Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Shidli village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Yeghegnavan village (Armenian)
ID: 001 [MC-156], 39.833703, 44.625872

Shidli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the *Iğdır* plain, on the left bank of the Araz river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Although the village has been referred to as Shidli in historical sources since the first half of the 19th century[1], it was known as Yukhari Garagoyunlu[2] in the late 16th century and as Garancha Shatli[3] in the early 18th century. The village was also known as Garagoyunlu Shidli. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 790 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Shidli village, which had previously been part of the Shikhlar village commune[5] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[6] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[7] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[8] On July 12, 1920, Shidli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[9] In 1921, 571 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and began to resettle.[10] In 1952, 127 residents of the village were deported to the Aghdash district, and 229 to the Aghjabadi and Jdanov (*present-day Beylagan district, A.A., S.H.*) districts of the Azerbaijan SSR. In 1953, another 205 individuals were deported to the Jdanov district.[11]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On December 3, 1988, over 1,400 Azerbaijani residents of Shidli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, the village was renamed Yeghegnavan.[13]

Tombstone monuments featuring horse figures once stood in the village's old cemetery. Among the residents of Shidli, this cemetery was referred to as the Sunni cemetery. Unfortunately, no epigraphic inscriptions from the tombstones of the Shidli cemetery were documented in Soviet-era scholarly research. The authors were also unable to obtain any photographic images from the Soviet period. As a result, although the precise documented history remains unknown, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records from 1831 to 1917 indicate that the village was inhabited exclusively by Muslims adhering to the *Shia* branch of Islam. Taking these facts into account, the authors suggest that the cemetery may date back to the 16th–18th centuries.

One of the tombstone monuments in the cemetery was referred to as the horse stone and consisted of a stone horse sculpture, approximately the size of a small horse, complete with a saddle and bridle.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery (at right, top) dated May 26, 1967[14] and KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[15] examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.6 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Fencing and well-maintained trees along the perimeter of the cemetery were identified. Despite differences in religious denomination among the Azerbaijani residents of the village, their efforts to preserve the old cemetery as part of their historical heritage and the deep reverence shown toward those buried there reflect the cultural and historical significance of the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1973 and May 17, 2005[16] (Orbview-3) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis indicates that between 1989 and 2005, the ancient Muslim cemetery was subjected to looting and destruction. The fencing around the site was dismantled, the trees were destroyed, and all tombstones visible in the 1973 imagery had either disappeared or been demolished. It was established that a new Armenian cemetery had been created to the south of the former cemetery.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2005 and November 11, 2010[17] (WorldView-2) identified alterations in the northwestern and northeastern sections of the cemetery. A transmission tower was constructed in the northwest, and a residential building was erected in the northeast.

The area of the cemetery remained largely unchanged between 2010 and 2018. This was confirmed by high-resolution imagery from the Spot-6 satellite dated November 10, 2018[18]. However, a comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2018 and September 27, 2019[19] (Maxar) revealed the commencement of the process of covering the northern section of the cemetery with soil. Satellite imagery dated 2019 and July 31, 2022[20] (WorldView-3) confirms that a portion of the area had already been covered by that time.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (present-day Yeghegnavan village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 10, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

According to imagery dated April 13, 2024[21] (Airbus), 0.5 hectares of land were covered with soil over a six-year period beginning in 2018.

Thus, following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village in 1988, the cemetery was subjected to destruction in two phases. The first phase occurred between 1989 and 2005 and resulted in the extensive destruction of the cemetery. The second phase entailed the total obliteration of the site, a process that has been ongoing since 2019.

The destruction of the old cemetery of Shidli village inflicted serious damage on the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijanis. The cemetery of Shidli village symbolized the historical and religious significance of this community. Its destruction severed the community's connection to its historical roots.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located in the southern part of the village, south of the Kakhanov canal. This site was marked on a German topographic map published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[22], and a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[23]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1973 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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18. *Spot 6*, November 10, 2018, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
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20. *WorldView-2*, July 31, 2022, Maxar via Esri Map.
21. April 24, 2024, Airbus via Google Earth.
22. Zweiwerstkarte von Azerbeidschân / XVIII-17. *Ararat* [map], scale 1:84,000. 1918.
23. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXVI -34 (*Davalu*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 17, 2005 / ORBVIEW-3
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 11, 2010 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 DigitalGlobe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 10, 2018 / Spot-6
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 13, 2020 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 31, 2022 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 001
Location: Shidli village (*present-day Yeghegnavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 24, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

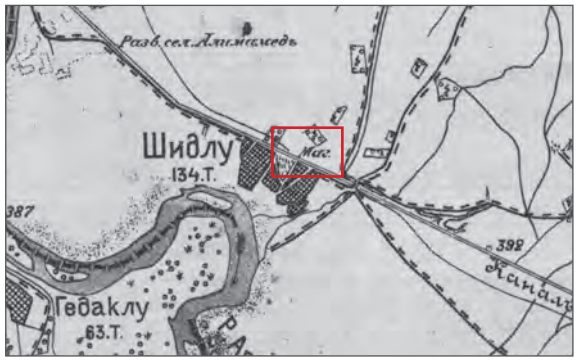
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



From 1997 to 1998

Status: OBLITERATED

Shirazli Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Shirazli village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Vosketap village (Armenian)
ID: 002 [MC-466], 39.880136, 44.652699

Shirazli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the *Iğdır* plain, along the Iravan–Nakhchivan highway and the Iravan–Nakhchivan–Baku railway line. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (referred to as *"Muslims" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 251 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Shirazli village, which had previously been part of the Shikhlar village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On July 11, 1920, Shirazli village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[7] Armenian refugees from present-day Turkiye were resettled in the village. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Shirazli village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 216 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, resettled, and began living together with 114 Armenians.[9] The settlement of Armenians in the village continued in the following years. In 1935, the neighboring village of Jadgiran was dissolved and incorporated into Shirazli, leading to the village's rapid expansion.[10] In 1946–1947, numerous Armenian families relocated from abroad were settled in the village. In 1951, 251 Azerbaijani residents of the village were deported to Aghdash district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On May 11, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shirazli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Shirazli village was renamed Vosketap.[12]

The cemetery of Shirazli village was located on the left side of the Iravan–Nakhchivan road that passed through the village. The village cemetery once housed the Mausoleum of Miryagub Agha, erected over the grave of Sayyid Miryagub Agha, who was deeply revered by the entire Azerbaijani population of the region.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[13] and July 3, 1980[14] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2.3 hectares, with tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence. This indicated that the cemetery was very well preserved by Azerbaijanis in that period. While the presence of trees and other vegetation helped more clearly delineate the boundaries of the area, the tombstones were identified through their heterogeneous surface pattern. A tomb structure believed to be the Mausoleum of Miryagub Agha was also identified.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 27, 2003[15] (Quickbird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2003. By that time, 2.3 hectares of the cemetery had been cleared and leveled using bulldozers, the tombstones had been looted or destroyed, the mausoleum demolished, half of the area designated for residential housing and converted into garden plots, and three greenhouses had been constructed. Several structures of various purposes were built in the southwestern and northwestern parts of the cemetery.

To narrow down the timeframe and pinpoint approximate dates of this obliteration, the authors tracked vegetation changes in the area from 1989 to 2003, using Landsat-5 satellite imagery. It was determined that while NDVI values ranged between 0.1 and 0.2 from 1989 to 1997, by 1998 they had increased to 0.4–0.6, indicating that the area had been cultivated with agricultural crops. The analysis indicates that complete demolition of the cemetery occurred between 1997 and 1998.

Analysis of satellite imagery dated 2003 and June 12, 2023[16] (Airbus) revealed the construction of numerous buildings in the southern part of the cemetery area. Photographic evidence from 2018 confirmed the destruction of the cemetery and showed the construction of public catering facilities along the southern edge of the cemetery, extending toward the left side of the Iravan–Nakhchivan road. The images clearly indicate that the cemetery had been subjected to destruction long before and had been completely obliterated.

Thus, analyses concerning the cemetery of Shirazli village demonstrate that while the area was well preserved as of 1980, it was severely destroyed in the years following 1988.

ID: 002
Location: Shirazli village (present-day Vosketap village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Between 1989 and 2003, a large portion of the cemetery was cleared and destroyed using bulldozers, with all tombstones and monuments completely demolished. Approximately half of the area was converted into private residential plots and greenhouses for agricultural use. The historical and cultural value of the cemetery was lost, and the religious monuments on the site, particularly the Mausoleum of Miryagub Agha, were entirely destroyed. This resulted in the complete obliteration of a Muslim cemetery belonging to the Azerbaijani community. The elimination of tombstones resulted in the loss of the cemetery's deep historical and cultural significance. The inability of Azerbaijanis to visit the graves of their families and the denial of their right to return to their village has negatively affected both their personal and national identity, as well as their psychological state. Since the cemetery held deep religious and spiritual significance for Azerbaijanis, its destruction caused a collective social trauma.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located within Shirazli village, on the left side of the main road leading toward *Reyhanli* (*present-day Haykavan*) village. This site was marked This site was marked on a German topographic map published in 1918 (1:84,000 scale)[17] and a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[18], 1981 (1:50,000 scale)[19], and 1981 (1:100,000 scale)[20]. Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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11. *Azärbayjanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 588.
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20. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.

ID: 002
Location: Shirazli village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ID: 002
Location: Shirazli village (*present-day Vosketap village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
June 12, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1918

Marked on a *1:84,000 scale* military-topographic map dated 1912–1913 and reprinted in 1918 by the Cartographic Department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 1999

Status: OBLITERATED

Shikhlar Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Shikhlar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Lusarat village (Armenian)
ID: 006 [MC-241], 39.8783576,44.5872206

Shikhlar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar *mahal*, located in the *Iğdır* plain, east of the Araz river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. The name of the village appeared in historical sources as *Sheykhchig* from the 16th century, as *Shigshig* from the first half of the 18th century[1], and from the first half of the 19th century, it began to be referred to as *Shikhlar* or *Sheykhs*' winter pasture.[2] From the second half of the 19th century onward, it was recorded as a village of the same name. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 815 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Shikhlar village, which had previously been part of the Shikhlar village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] In November 1918, Shikhlar village came under Armenian attack. The population of the village was subjected to a massacre, and out of approximately 1,300 Azerbaijani residents, only around 40 survived.[7] Armenian refugees from the territories of present-day Turkiye were subsequently resettled in the village. During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Shikhlar village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] After 1921, 216 Azerbaijanis originally from other Azerbaijani villages who had been displaced in 1918–1919, resettled in the village.[9] Subsequently, Armenians classified as "repatriates" from the territory of present-day Iraq were resettled in the village.[10] In 1953, 96 Azerbaijanis from the village were deported to the Jdanov district (*present-day Beylagan district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated December 26, 1968, Shikhlar village was renamed Lusarat.[12]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shikhlar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[13]

An old and a new cemetery belonging to Azerbaijanis existed in the village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated May 26, 1967[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the sites of both cemeteries. The findings indicated that the old cemetery spanned an area of 0.98 hectares, with tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern. The cemetery area was enclosed by a fence. The new cemetery was located on 0.6 hectares at the southern foothill of a high hill, with tombstones identified on the site. The fact that both cemeteries were enclosed by fences during the Soviet period indicates that they were protected by Azerbaijanis and that the individuals buried there were held in high esteem.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1967 and July 3, 1980[15] (KH-9 Hexagon). According to the findings of this analysis, the old cemetery had been completely destroyed, its surface leveled by bulldozers, and private residential houses were constructed in its place. The new cemetery, however, remained intact. An increase in the number of tombstones was observed, indicating its continued use by Azerbaijanis.

Based on an analysis of archival documents and early twentieth-century topographic maps, the authors suggest that the old cemetery remained in use by the village population until November 1918. In the subsequent period, Azerbaijani residents who settled in the village established a new cemetery approximately 200 meters north of the former one.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 28, 2007[16] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the new cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2007. The site was found to have been completely destroyed and leveled with the use of bulldozers. Bulldozer tracks in the soil remain visible to this date. In 2007, a statue of Kevork Chavush, a terrorist and murderer of Turks in the late nineteenth century, was erected at the top of the hill. A dirt road was constructed from the destroyed cemetery leading to this statue.

Analysis of NDVI values from Landsat 5 satellite imagery from 1989 to 2007 revealed a complete disappearance of vegetation cover in the area beginning in 1994. This is likely the result of earthmoving operations carried out at the site. Based on the obtained values, the authors estimate that the destruction of the cemetery took place in 1994–1995.

Thus, the old cemetery of Shirazli village was destroyed between 1967 and 1982, while the new cemetery was destroyed between 1989 and 2007, following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village in 1988. The conducted analysis provides grounds to suggest

ID: 006
Location: Shikhlar village (present-day Lusarat village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
New cemetery
Old cemetery
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 26, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

that this destruction likely occurred in 1994–1995. The cemeteries of Shirazli were deliberately destroyed, and the historical and cultural heritage was erased. This act also served as a step toward altering the ethnic composition of the area and erasing all traces of Azerbaijanis from the region. The erection of a statue to an Armenian "hero" on the site of the new cemetery exemplifies not only the implementation of ethnic and cultural transformation in the area, but also a clear display of disrespect toward the culture of the local people.

GEOLOCATION:

The first cemetery is located in the northern part of Shikhlar village, at the edge of the settlement, on the left side of the road; the second cemetery lies 200 meters further north, at the foot of a hill. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1981 (1:50,000[17] and 1:100,000[18]). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit imagery and 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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15. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A003*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
16. *QuickBird-2*, June 28, 2007, Maxar via Google Earth.
17. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-6-A (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1981.
18. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.

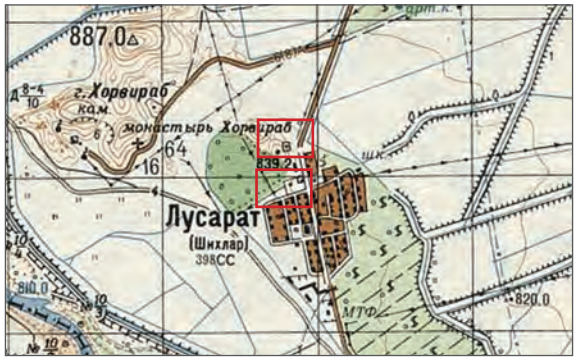
ID: 006
Location: Shikhlar village (*present-day Lusarat village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 006
Location: Shikhlar village (*present-day Lusarat village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1981

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1981

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1981 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 1989 to 1997

Status: OBLITERATED

Yengija Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Yengija village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Sisavan village (Armenian)
ID: 003 [MC-470], 39.902866, 44.667442

Yengija was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Vedibasar mahal, located in the *Iğdır* plain, on the banks of the Boyuk river, a tributary of the Vedi river. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 475 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Yengija village, which had previously been part of the Vedichay village commune[3] within the 4th police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On July 11, 1920, Yengija village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Yengija within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 162 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. In the same year, 187 Armenians were resettled in the village by the Armenian SSR.[9] The resettlement of Armenians in the village continued in subsequent years. In 1951, a portion of the Azerbaijani population of the village, 878 individuals, was deported to the Aghjabadi district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[10] Their homes were allocated to Armenians brought in from abroad.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Yengija village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[11] By the resolution of of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Yengija village was renamed Sisavan.[12]

The first cemetery of Yengija village was adjacent to the Garalar village cemetery, but in the 1950s, this section was eliminated by Armenians, and replaced with apple orchards. A new Azerbaijani cemetery was established on the outskirts of Yengija village.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[13] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery of Yengija village established after the 1950s. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.31 hectares, with tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1973 and July 31, 2003[14] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, the cemetery was completely destroyed at some point between 1989 and 2003 and turned into private residential plots with adjoining yards. The intensive growth of vegetation in the area provides grounds to assume that the destruction occurred between 1989 and 1995.

Accordingly, the village cemetery was destroyed twice—first in the 1950s, and again between 1989 and 1995.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the south of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1981 (1:50,000[15] and 1:100,000[16] scales). Using the coordinates from the 1981 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1973 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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9. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 156-157.
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14. August 27, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
15. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-6-A (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1981.
16. General'nyï Shtab, J-38-6 (*Artashat*) [map], scale 1:100,000 1981.

ID: 003
Location: Yengija village (*present-day Sisavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 29, 1979 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 003
Location: Yengija village (*present-day Sisavan village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 2021 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Garabaghlar Village Cemetery

Location: Vedi district, Yukhari Garabaghlar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province (Armenian)
ID: 186 [MC-543], 39.960556, 44.863056

Yukhari Garabaghlar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Jighindara area of the Vedibasar *mahal*, located on the right bank of the Vedi river, 300 meters north of Dahnaz village. It was incorporated into Vedi district on September 9, 1930, Artashat district in 1964, and Ararat district on May 5, 1968. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 16th century.[1] The village was also known by other names, including Boyuk Garabagh, and Garabaghlar-Ulya.[2] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicate that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" and "Tatars" in the sources, A.A., S.H.*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 426 Azerbaijani residents.[3]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Yukhari Garabaghlar village, previously part of the Vedichay village commune[4] within 4th police district of Iravan *uezd* in the Iravan Governorate, was placed within the borders of Armenia, by the decision of a joint commission dated July 5, 1918.[5] However, the village population did not accept this rule. Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[6] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[7] On July 11, 1920, Yukhari Garabaghlar village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[8] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Yukhari Garabaghlar village within its new administrative boundaries.[9] In 1921, the majority of those who returned to the area settled in Chimankend, while only 84 Azerbaijanis returned to Yukhari Garabaghlar village and resettled there.[10]

In 1950, part of the village population was deported to Sovkhoz No. 3 in the Jdanov district (*present-day Beylagan district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR, and in 1951, others were deported to the Yevlakh district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated December 26, 1952, the village was officially dissolved.[12]

The village's ancient cemetery, in use since the 16th century, contained numerous tombstone monuments, including ram and horse-shaped stone sculptures.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[13] (*at right, top*) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of **2 hectares**, with tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern. Analysis of imagery revealed that even the ruins of the village had been obliterated by this point and that the area had been converted into perennial fruit orchards and vineyards. However, some remnants of the cemetery ruins were still visible.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 6, 2003[14] (QuickBird-2) (*at right, bottom*) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the region. Based on the findings, it was determined that of the *2-hectare* cemetery area identified in Hexagon imagery, *1.19 hectares* had been completely obliterated at some point between 1980 and 2003. Satellite imagery from 2021 indicated that the situation in the area remained stable.[15]

However, a comparative analysis of imagery from 2021 and September 3, 2023[16] confirmed the establishment of perennial fruit orchards across *0.81 hectares*. This marked the complete obliteration of the cemetery. Several obtained photographs and footage show broken tombstone fragments scattered within the newly planted orchard.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated in the south of the village. The site was likely marked on Soviet maps because it lay within the territory of a dissolved village. Precise coordinates were established through the identification of the area using photo and video documentation in conjunction with Hexagon imagery from 1980.

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10. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 156-157.
11. *Azärbaycanlïlarïn Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär*), introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 486, 588.
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15. Juner 06, 2021, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
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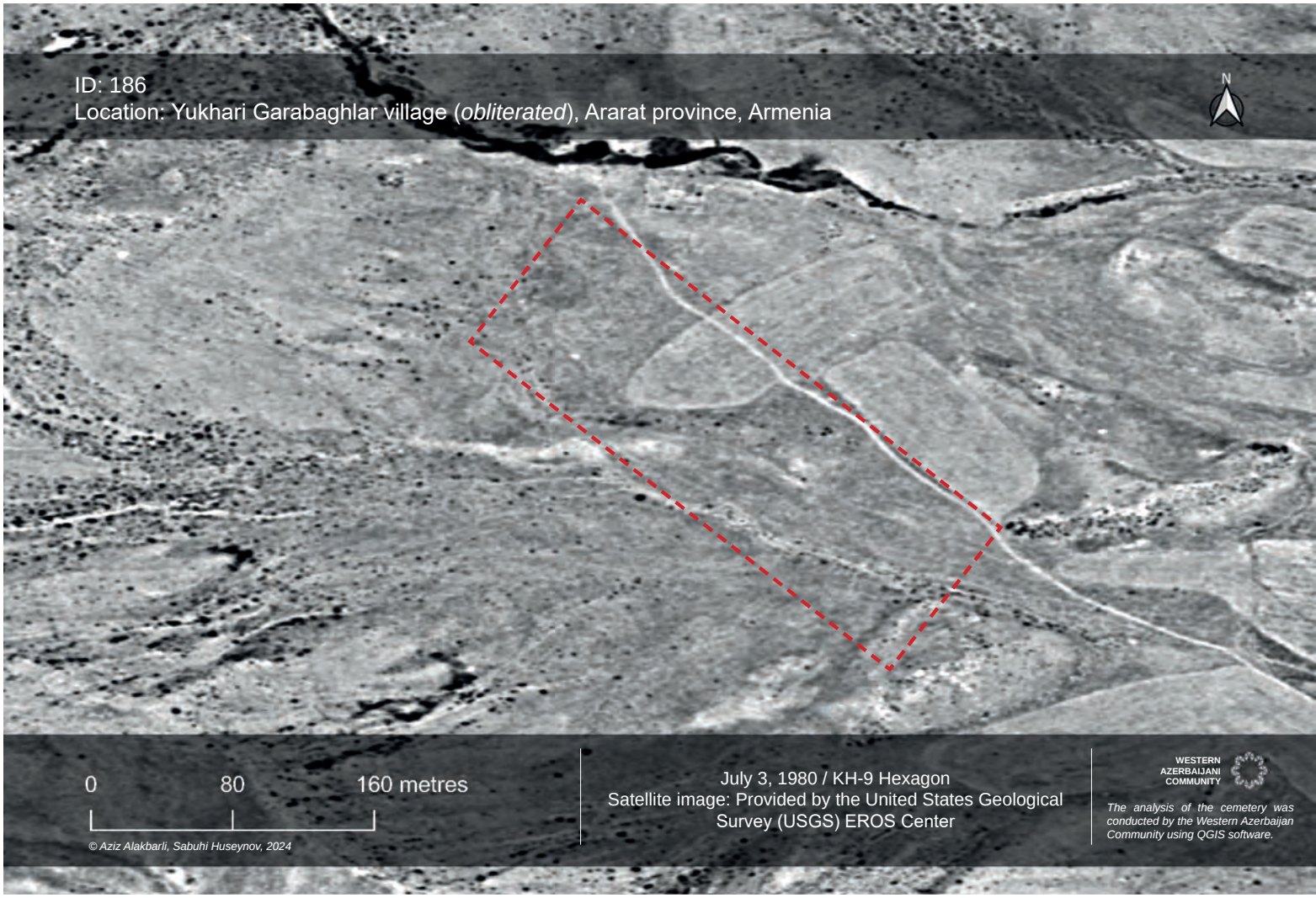
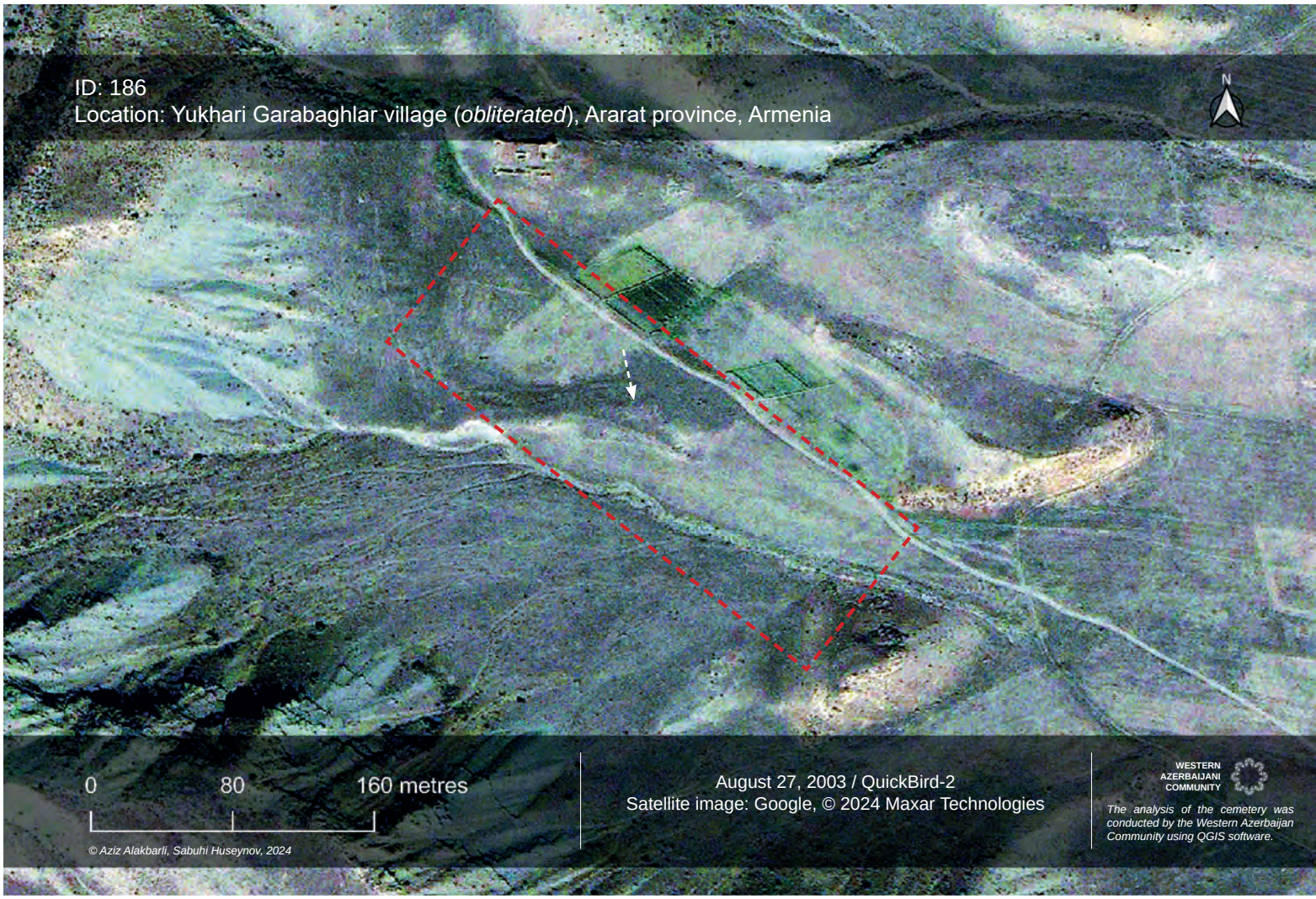

ID: 186
Location: Yukhari Garabaghlar village (*obliterated*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 186
Location: Yukhari Garabaghlar village (*obliterated*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 27, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 186
Location: Yukhari Garabaghlar village (*obliterated*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 6, 2021
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 186
Location: Yukhari Garabaghlar village (*obliterated*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 3, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

©2023.

1

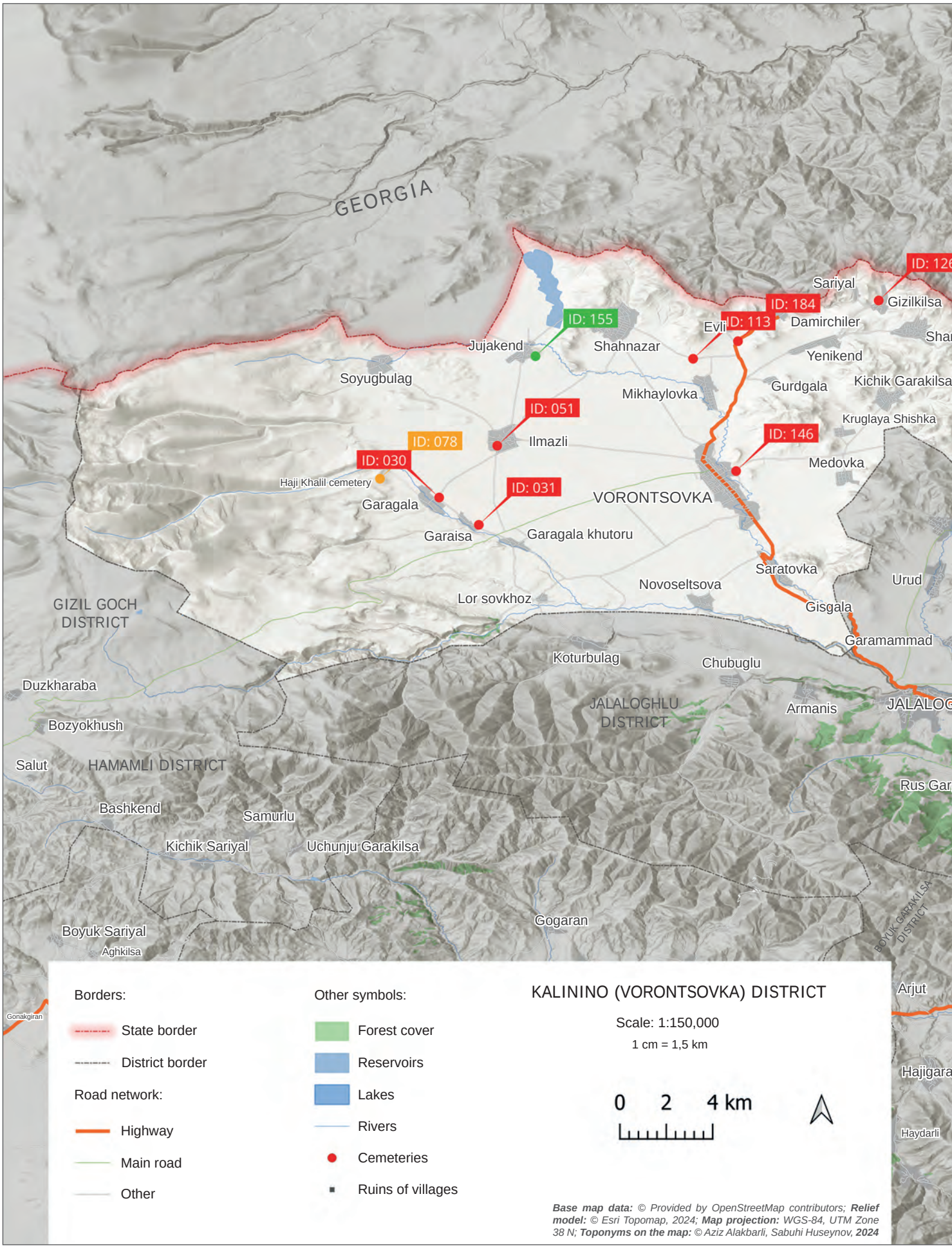
2

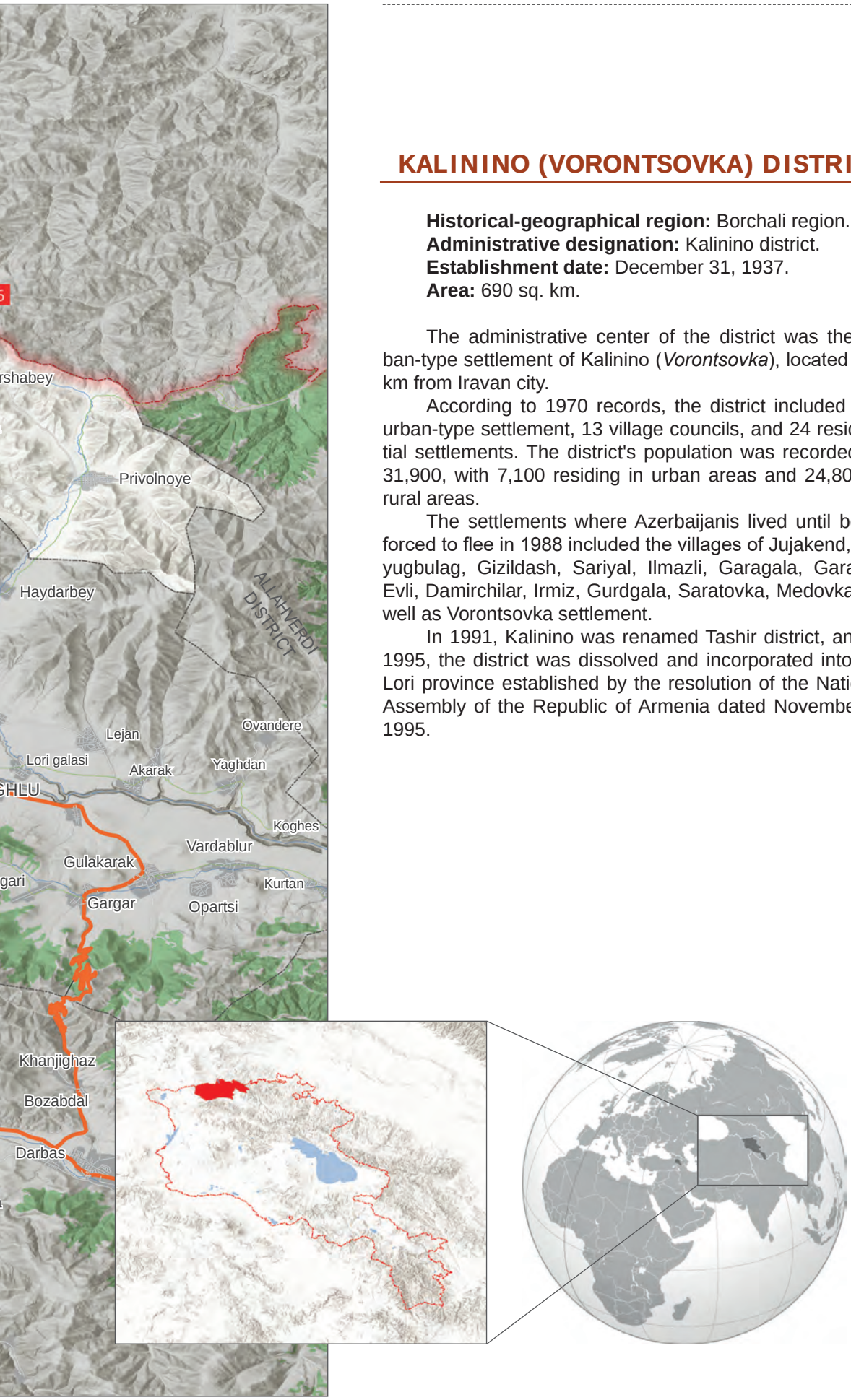
3

4

5

© Wikipedia: Valen1980, 2013


GEORGIA
ID: 155
Jujakend
Shahnazar
Soyugbulag
Mikhaylovka
ID: 051
Ilmazli
ID: 078
ID: 030
Haji Khalil cemetery
Garagala
ID: 031
Garaisa
Garagala khutoru
VORONTSOVKA
ID: 184
ID: 113
Evli
Damirchiler
Sariyal
Gizilkilsa
Yenikend
Gurdgala
Kichik Garakilsa
Kruglaya Shishka
ID: 146
Medovka
Saratovka
Urud
Novoseltsova
Lor sovkhoz
Gisgala
Garamammad
Koturbulag
Chubuglu
GIZIL GOCH DISTRICT
Duzkharaba
Bozyokhush
Salut
HAMAMLI DISTRICT
JALALOGHLU DISTRICT
Armanis
Bashkend
Samurlu
Kichik Sariyal
Uchunju Garakilsa
Gogaran
Boyuk Sariyal
Aghkilsa
Gonakgiran
Arjut
Hajigara
Haydarli
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
KALININO (VORONTSOVKA) DISTRICT
Scale: 1:150,000
1 cm = 1,5 km
0 2 4 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024



KALININO (VORONTSOVKA) DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Borchali region.
Administrative designation: Kalinino district.
Establishment date: December 31, 1937.
Area: 690 sq. km.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Kalinino (*Vorontsovka*), located 320 km from Iravan city.

According to 1970 records, the district included one urban-type settlement, 13 village councils, and 24 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 31,900, with 7,100 residing in urban areas and 24,800 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Jujakend, Soyugbulag, Gizildash, Sariyal, Ilmazli, Garagala, Garaisa, Evli, Damirchilar, Irmiz, Gurdgala, Saratovka, Medovka, as well as Vorontsovka settlement.

In 1991, Kalinino was renamed Tashir district, and in 1995, the district was dissolved and incorporated into the Lori province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 2007 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Garagala Village Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Garagala village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Noramut village (Armenian)
ID: 030 [MC-017], 41.1103216, 44.1420249

Garagala was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region, located on the bank of the Garagala river, north of Garaisa village. It was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 205 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Garagala, previously part of the Ilmazli village commune[3] of the *Lori* police district in *Borchali uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[4] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[5] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[6] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. On December 14, 1918, Garagala village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[7] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.[8] On September 3, 1919, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Gurbanov, the commissioner of the Ilmazli village commune, the population of Garagala and other Azerbaijani villages authorized their commissioner to petition for unification with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and delegated him to represent them at the conference of the South Caucasus states.[9]

Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Garagala village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[10]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garagala village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garagala village was renamed Noramut.[11]

An ancient Azerbaijani mausoleum once stood in the cemetery located in Garagala village

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 31, 1975[12] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The analysis identified the cemetery with its heterogeneous surface pattern. A mausoleum was identified in the central part of the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1975 and November 19, 2007[13] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2007. In the northwestern section of the area marked with a red frame, the land had already been plowed for agricultural use; however, the shadow of the central mausoleum was still visible.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007, October 25, 2017[14] and October 15, 2023[15] (Airbus) revealed that the cemetery was obliterated entirely.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on the left side of the road leading to Garaisa village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:210,000 scale)[16], 1933 (1:42,000)[17], 1937 (1:210,000)[18], 1975 (1:50,000)[19], and 1976 (1:100,000)[20]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1975 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
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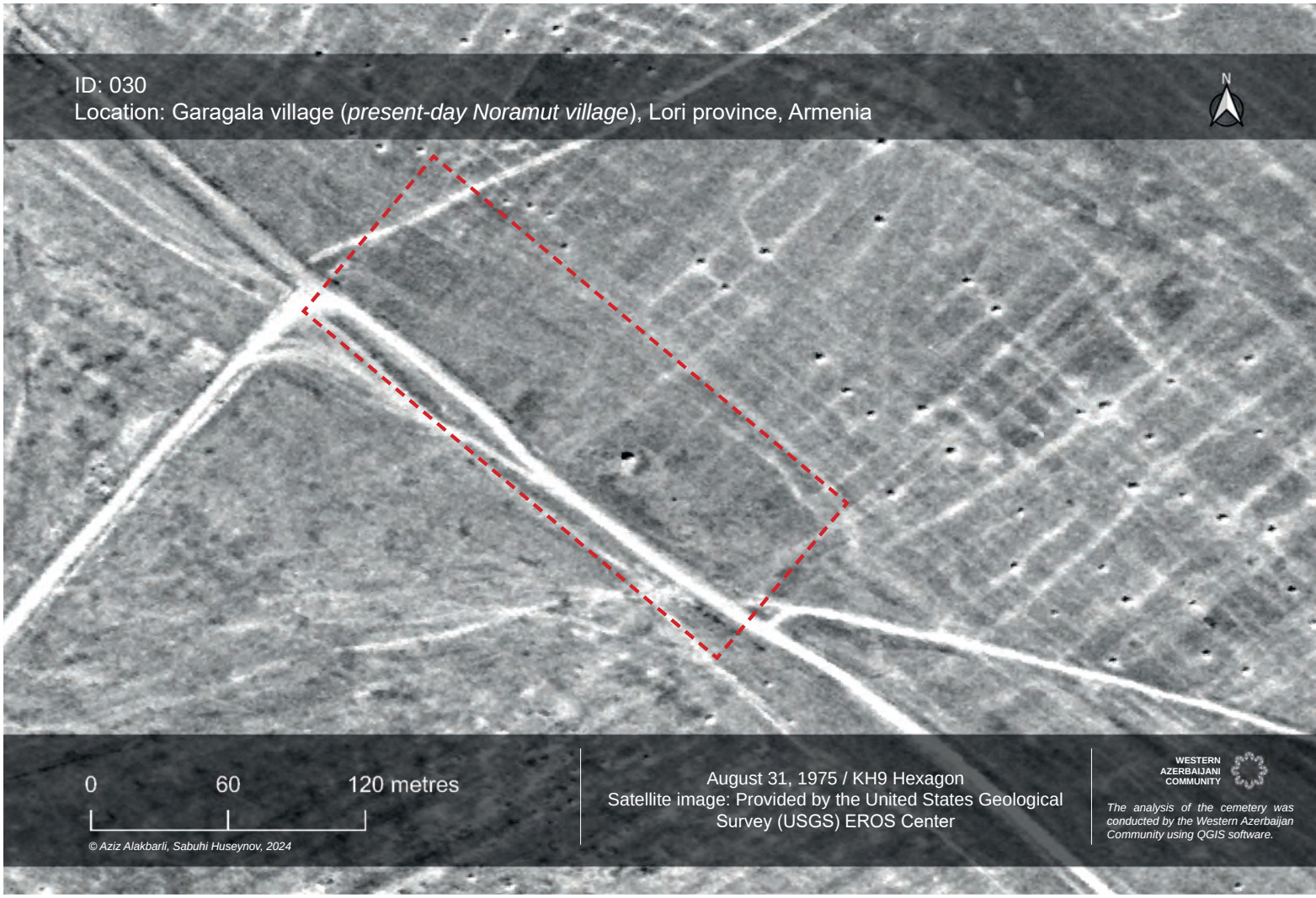
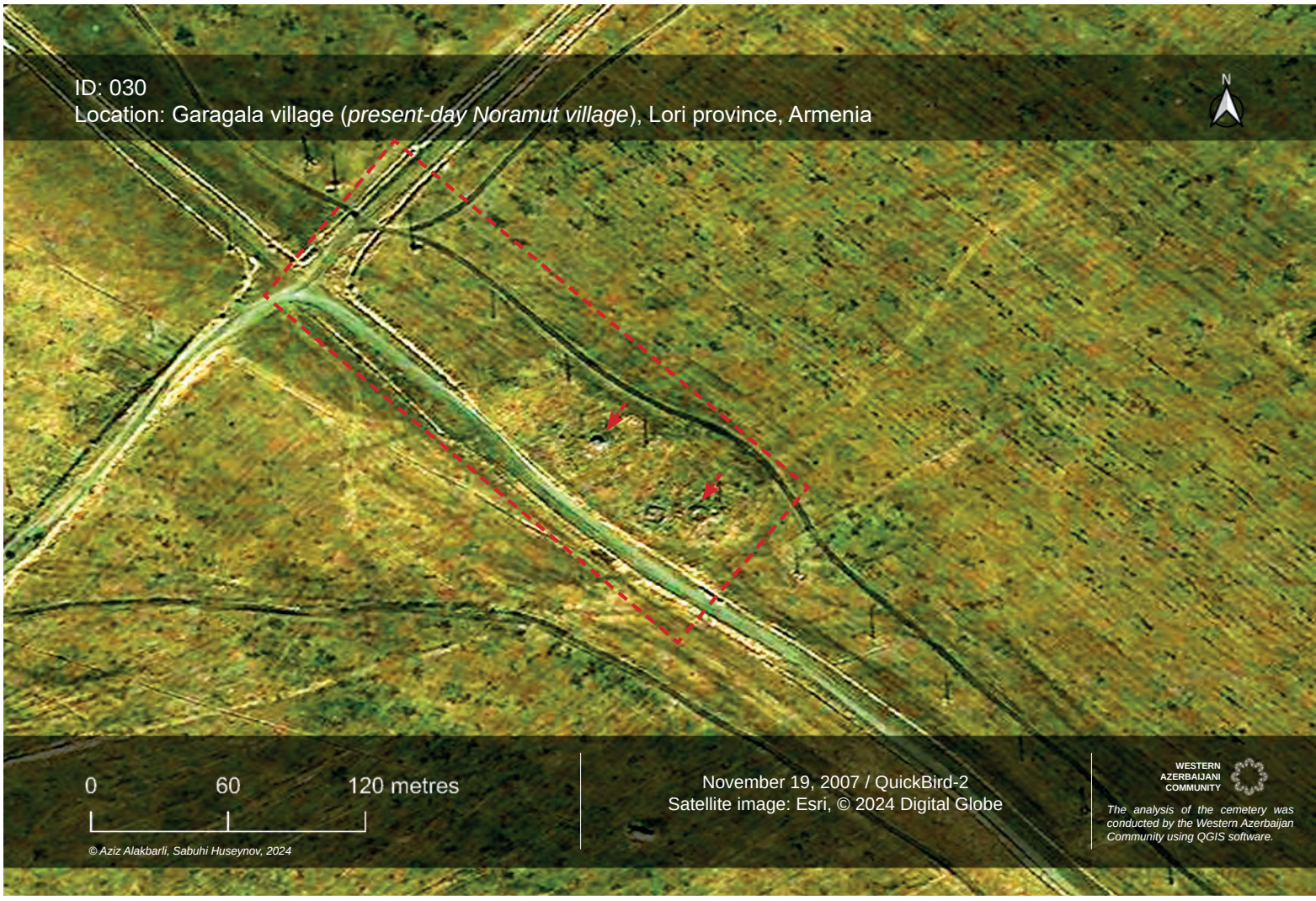
7. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 2, d. 88, ll. 15–17.
8. ARDA, f.897, op.1, d. 31, l.44.
9. ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 103, l. 18.
10. Iz protokola № 13 zasedaniya Plenuma Kavbyuro TsK RKP(b) (7 iyulya 1921 g.), RGASPI, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, ll. 131–131 ob., Verified copy.
11. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
12. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1210-300542F059*, August 31, 1975. USGS EROS Data Center.
13. *QuickBird-2*, November 19, 2007, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
14. *GeoEye-1*, October 25, 2017. Maxar via Esri Map.
15. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 7, *List E*, scale 1:210,000, 1931.
17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-32 (*Vorontsovka*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1933.
18. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie,Ряд 7, List *E,* scale 1:210,000, 1937.
19. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-V (*Katnakhpiur*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1978.
20. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 030
Location: Garagala village (present-day Noramut village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 1975 / KH9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 030
Location: Garagala village (present-day Noramut village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 19, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Digital Globe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 030
Location: Garagala village (*present-day Noramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 25, 2017 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies.
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 030
Location: Garagala village (*present-day Noramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

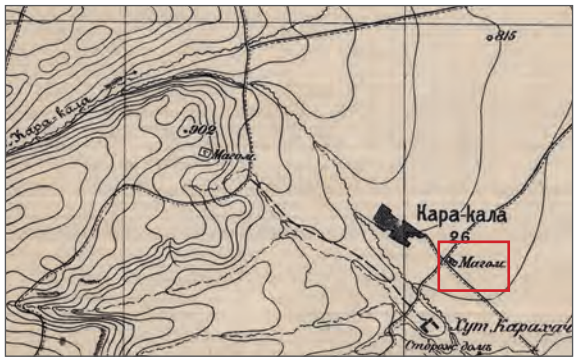
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1933

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

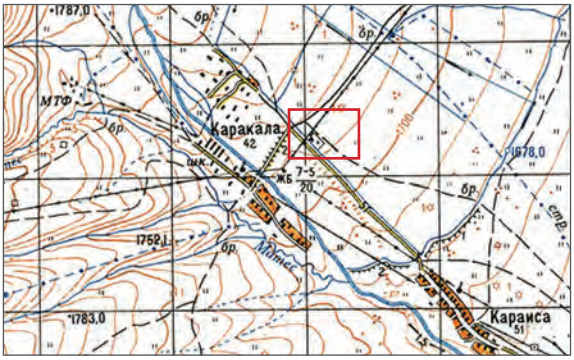


1937

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1937 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Garaisa Village Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Garaisa village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Meghvahovit village (Armenian)
ID: 031 [MC-018], 41.096409, 44.162252

Garaisa was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region, located at the confluence of the Chomcha and Garagala rivers, on the left bank of the latter. It was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991.

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Garaisa, previously part of the Ilmazli village commune[1] of the Lori police district in Borchali *uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[2] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[3] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[4] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. On December 14, 1918, Garaisa village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[5] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.[6] On September 3, 1919, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Gurbanov, the commissioner of the Ilmazli village commune, the population of Garaisa and other Azerbaijani-populated villages authorized their commissioner to petition for unification with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and delegated him to represent them at the conference of the South Caucasus states.[7]

Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Garaisa village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[8] In 1921, the village had a population of 128 Azerbaijanis.[9]

In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garaisa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, the village was renamed Meghvahovit.[10]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The spatial analysis conducted using the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 31, 1975,[11] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the area covered by the cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.52 hectares, with tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous surface pattern.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1975 and November 19, 2007[12] (GeoEye-1) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2007. A portion of the cemetery area has been plowed for agricultural use, and tombstone fragments have been identified across a 0.47-hectare section. At the center, a rectangular foundation covering 140 square meters is visible, with a tombstone still casting a shadow at its center. It is likely that this structure was once a mausoleum or a mosque. The foundation of this structure was also identified in the 2023 imagery.[13]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery lies east of Garaisa village, 70 meters northeast of the road. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:210,000 scale)[14], 1933 (1:42,000)[15], 1937 (1:210,000)[16], 1975 (1:50,000)[17], and 1976 (1:100,000)[18]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1975 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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12. QuickBird-2, November 19, 2007. DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
13. October 15, 2023. Airbus via Google Earth.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 7, *List E*, scale 1:210,000, 1931.
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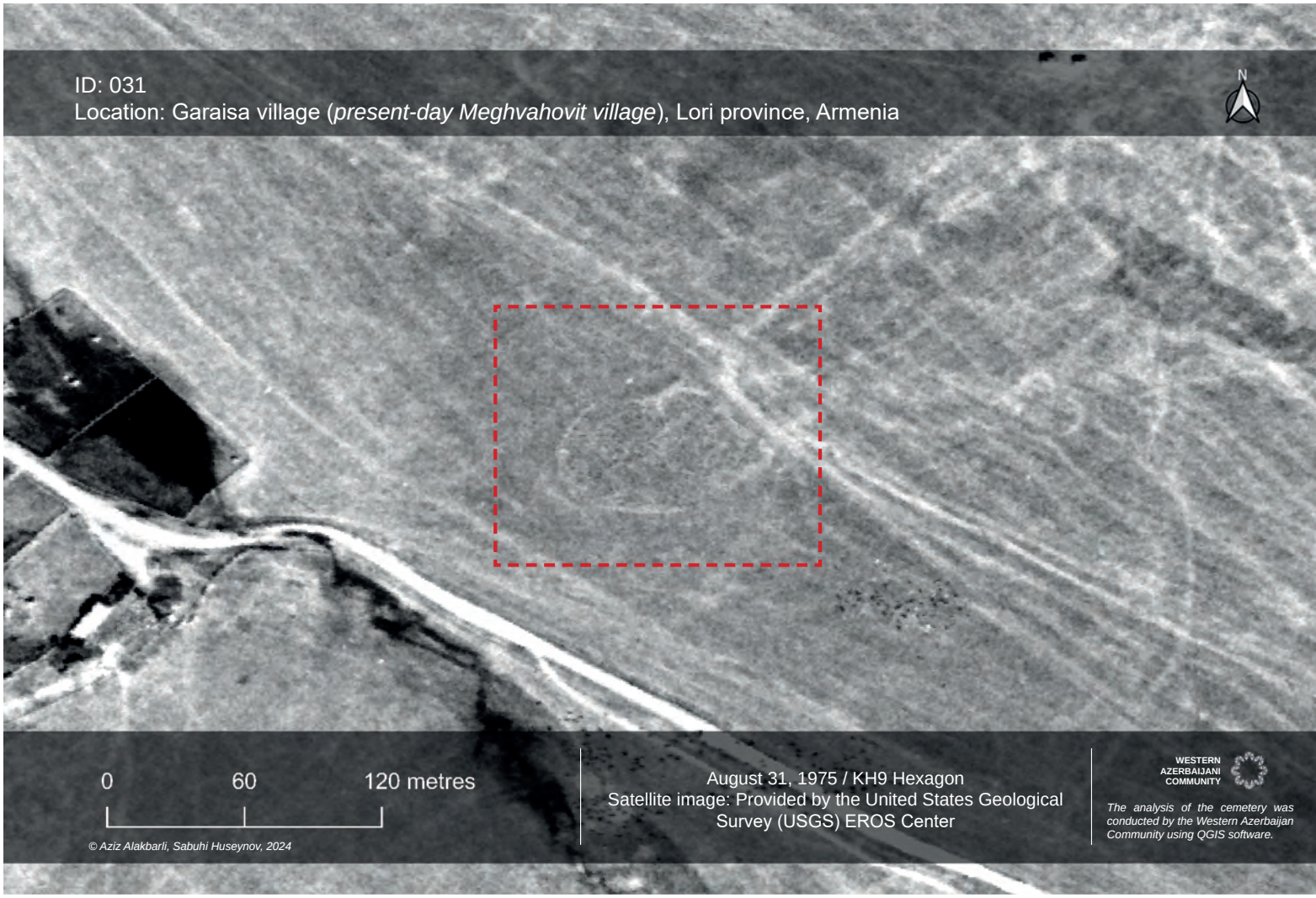
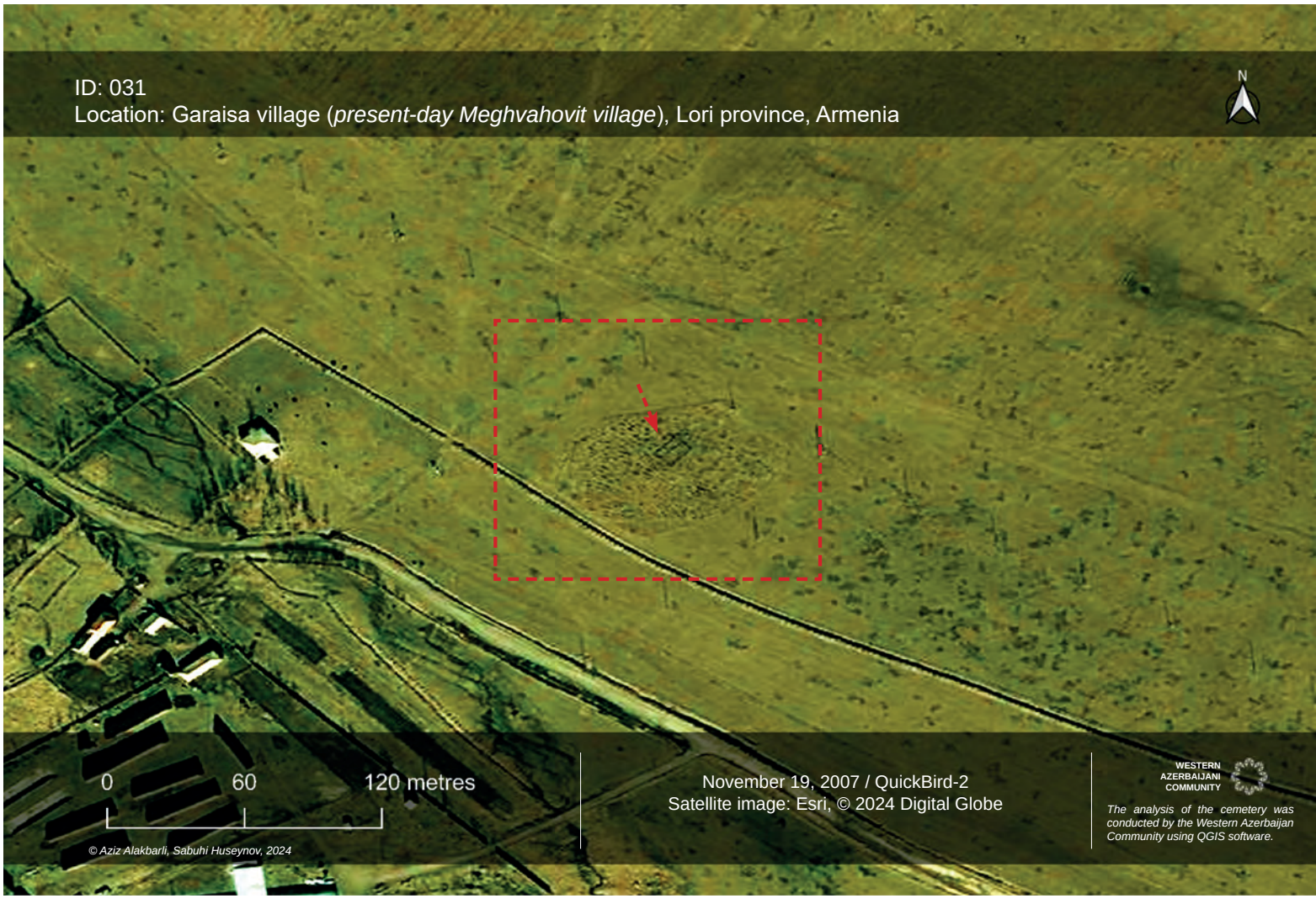
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie,Ряд 7, List *E,* scale 1:210,000, 1937.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-V (*Katnakhpiur*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1978.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 031
Location: Garaisa village (*present-day Meghvahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 1975 / KH9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 031
Location: Garaisa village (*present-day Meghvahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
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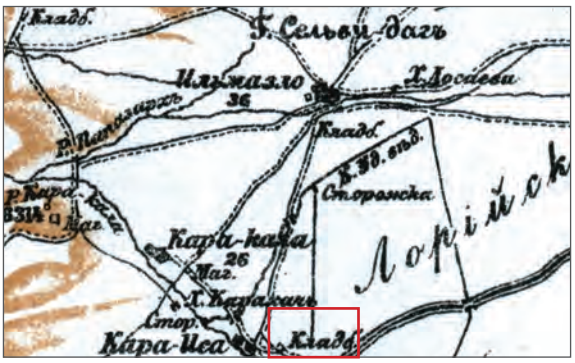
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 19, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Digital Globe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 031
Location: Garaisa village (*present-day Meghvahovit village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

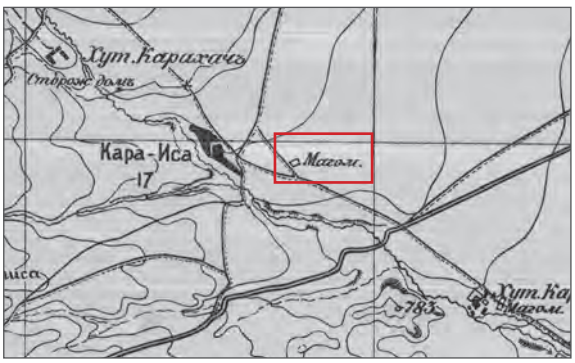
1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1933

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1937

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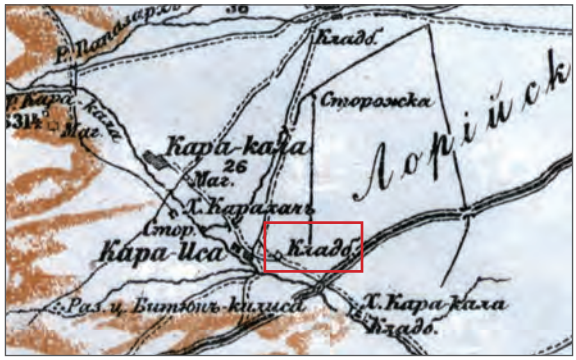
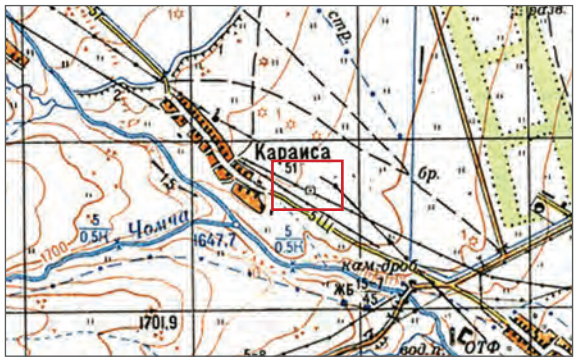


1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

© Google Earth, 2024

From 1989 to 2000

Status: OBLITERATED

Gizilkilsa Village Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Gizilkilsa village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Artsni village (Armenian)
ID: 126 [MC-516], 41.210841, 44.366291

Gizilkilsa was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region. It was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991. The village was referred to as Bozadir and Gizilkilsa since the late 16th century in historical sources.[1] In a detailed fiscal register from the first half of the 18th century, the village was recorded as Gizilkilsa,[2] and in later sources it appears under the names Gizilkilsa and Dagh Gizilkilsa as well. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 243 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Gizilkilsa, previously part of the Sarchapet village commune[4] of the Lori police district in *Borchali uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[5] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[6] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[7] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. On December 14, 1918, Gizilkilsa village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.[8]

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[9] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.10 Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Gizilkilsa village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[11]

In 1921, 373 Azerbaijanis resided in the village.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Gizilkilsa village was renamed Gizildash.[13]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Gizilkilsa village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[14] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Gizilkilsa village was renamed Artsni.[15]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 31, 1975[16] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis, the cemetery spanned an area of 0.74 hectares, with its tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. The cemetery was bordered by natural ravines on its northern and eastern sides, and by fences on its southern and western sides. Trees were planted along the southern and western boundaries. Several large tombstone monuments were clearly visible in different parts of the cemetery.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1975 and November 15, 2017[17] (Airbus) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Based on the analysis, it was determined that the cemetery was subjected to severe destruction between 1989 and 2017, with 91–100% of its surface area visible in satellite imagery having been destroyed and obliterated. In order to narrow down the timeframe of the destruction, the authors relied on video footage from the 2000s. This footage revealed that by the early 2000s, the cemetery had already been heavily damaged: tombstones had been broken, many had been removed or had disappeared, and tombstone monuments made of valuable black stone had completely disappeared. By this time, the surviving tombstones had the images of the deceased deliberately scratched off, and the inscriptions on many of the monuments had been erased. A comparative analysis with the 2017 imagery confirmed the absence of the tombstones previously visible in the video footage. By this time, the cemetery area had been completely obliterated. A photograph from 2024 provides information on the cemetery's most recent condition. Across the entire cemetery, only 3–4 tombstones with headstones on the verge of collapse remain.

ID: 126
Location: Gizilkilsa village (present-day Artsni village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 1975 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Thus, following 1989, the cemetery was subjected to severe destruction, looting, and acts of vandalism. These acts of destruction were carried out continuously, and between 2017 and 2023, they resulted in the complete demolition of all tombstones.[17,18]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated in the northwest of the village. The cemetery was not marked on any of the topographic maps examined during the research. However, by referencing witness accounts and KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery from 1975, the authors were able to identify the cemetery to the northwest of the Gizildash village and determine its precise coordinates.

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15. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 27.
16. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1210-300542F058*, August 31, 1975, USGS EROS Data Center.
17. *WorldView-2*, November 15, 2017, Maxar via Esri Map.
18. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Esri Map.

ID: 126
Location: Gizilkilsa village (*present-day Artsni village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 15, 2017 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 126
Location: Gizilkilsa village (*present-day Artsni village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 CNES/Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

2000 PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

2024 PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE CEMETERY:

5

From 1989 to 2007

Status: DESTROYED

Haji Khalil (Hashkhalil) Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Garagala village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Noramut village (Armenian)
ID: 078 [MC-167, MC-163, MC-177], 41.119917, 44.111806

Haji Khalil Cemetery was an ancient Azerbaijani cemetery in the Borchali region, located on higher terrain west of Garagala village, near the right bank of the Garagala river. The area was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991. The cemetery was named after the mausoleum of Haji Khalil Baba located within it. It was used by the populations of many Azerbaijani villages in the area and was also revered as a sacred site. Historical sources refer to Garagala village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 205 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Garagala, previously part of the Ilmazli village commune[3] of the *Lori* police district in *Borchali uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[4] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[5] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[6] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. On December 14, 1918, Garagala village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[7] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.[8] On September 3, 1919, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Gurbanov, the commissioner of the Ilmazli village commune, the population of Garagala and other Azerbaijani villages authorized their commissioner to petition for unification with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and delegated him to represent them at the conference of the South Caucasus states.[9]

Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Garagala village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[10] In 1921, the village had a population of 298 Azerbaijanis.[11]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Garagala village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Garagala village was renamed Noramut.[12]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The spatial analysis conducted using the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 31, 1975[13] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the area covered by the cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 3 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1975 and January 15, 2007[14] (Spot-5) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2007. Incomplete mausoleums located in the western section were not detected in modern satellite imagery.

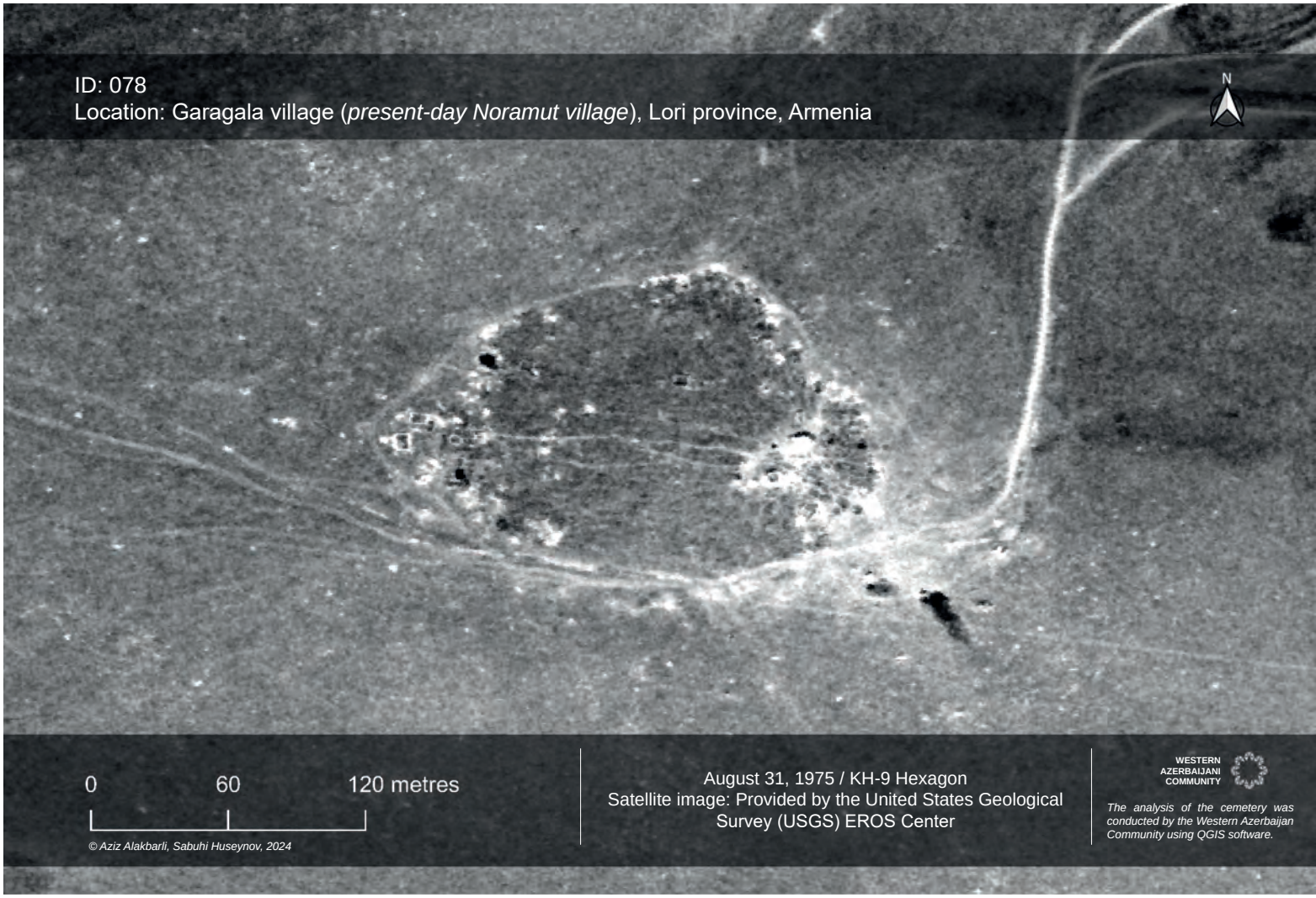
A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2007 and 2023[15] (CNES/Airbus) determined that the cemetery has survived into the present day in a state of ruin.

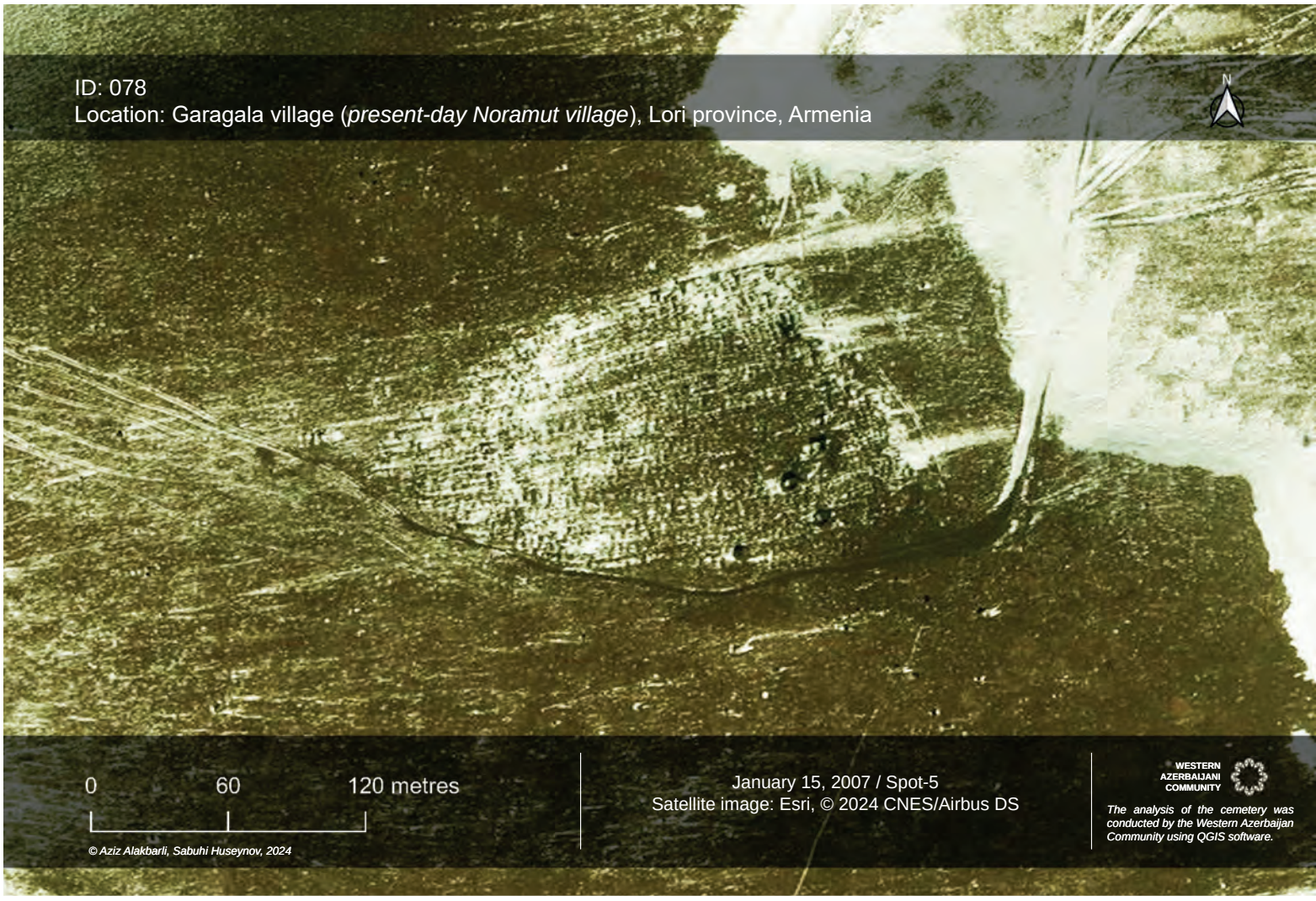
GEOLOCATION:

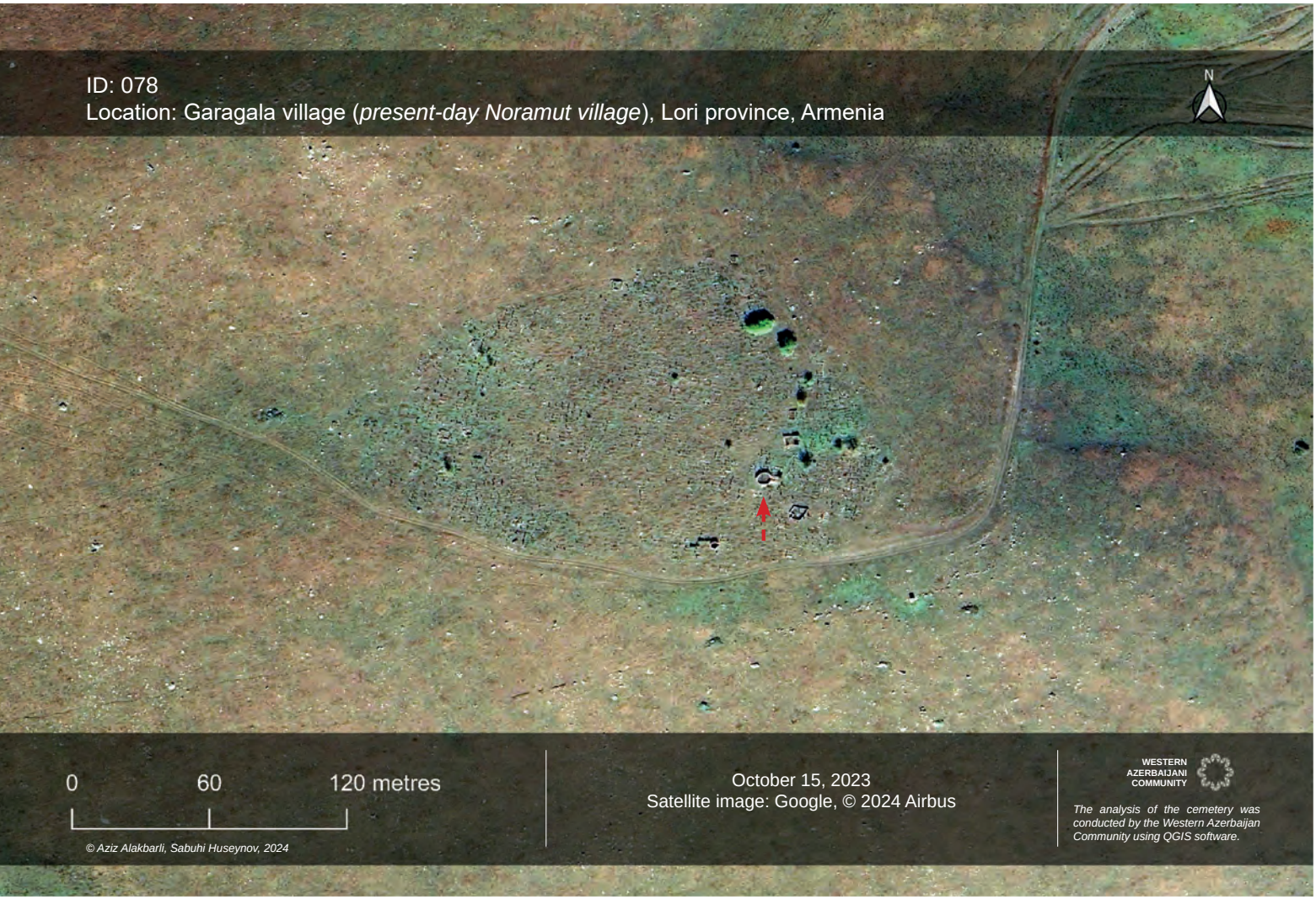
The cemetery is located 3 km northwest of Garagala village, on top of a high mountain. This site was marked on topographic maps published in 1931 (scale 1:210,000)[16], 1933 (1:42,000)[17], 1937 (1:210,000)[18], 1943 (1:200,000)[19], 1975 (1:50,000)[20], 1976 (1:100,000)[21], and 1978 (1:200,000)[22]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1975 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Tiflis äyalätinin mufässäl däftäri: Borchalï vä Qazakh (1728),* pref., trans., and comm. by Shahin. Mustafayev, 2nd ed. (Baku: Elm, 2022), 208.
2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 134.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. *Respublika Armeniya v 1918–1920 gg. (politicheskaya istoriya). Sbornik dokumentov i materialov* (Yerevan: Izdatel'stvo "Gitutyun" NAN RA, 2000), 49.
5. Richard G. Hovannisian, *The Republic of Armenia: The First Year, 1918–1919,* vol. 1 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971), 73.
6. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 1, d 17, l. 2.
7. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 2, d. 88, ll. 15–17.
8. ARDA, f.897, op.1, d. 31, l.44.
9. ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 103, l. 18.
10. RGASPI, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, ll. 131–131 verso.
11. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 148-149.
12. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 28.
13. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1210-300542F059*, August 31, 1975, USGS EROS Data Center.
14. *Spot 5*, January 15, 2007, CNES/Airbus DS via Esri Map.
15. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 7, *List E*, scale 1:210,000, 1931.
17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-32 (*Vorontsovka*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1933.
18. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie,Ряд 7, List *E,* scale 1:210,000, 1937.
19. Deutsche Heereskarte, *Zusammendruk Erewan* [map], scale 1:200,000, 1943.
20. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-V (*Katnakhpiur*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1978.
21. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.
22. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-XXVII (*Kirovakan*) [map], scale 1:200,000, 1978.


ID: 078
Location: Garagala village (*present-day Noramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 1975 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

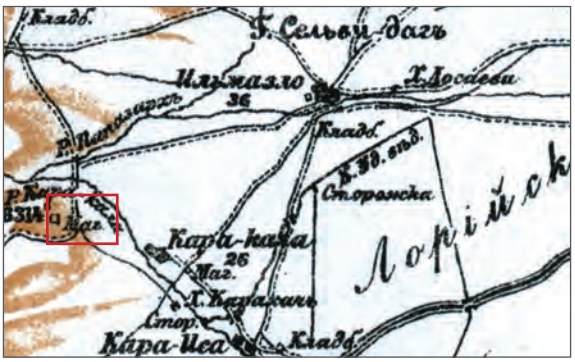

ID: 078
Location: Garagala village (*present-day Noramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 15, 2007 / Spot-5
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 CNES/Airbus DS
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 078
Location: Garagala village (present-day Noramut village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

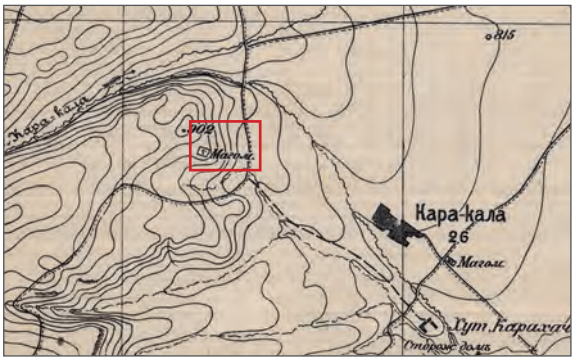
1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



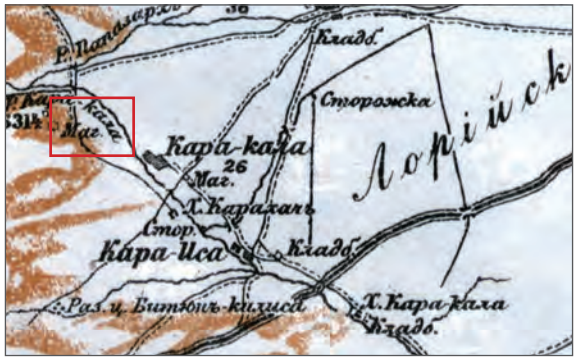
1933

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



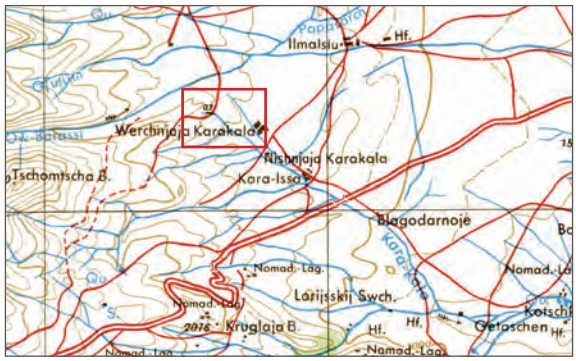
1937

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1937 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



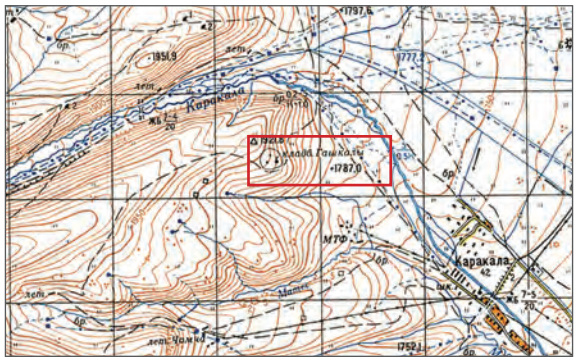
1943

Marked on a *1:200,000 scale* topographic map published in 1943 by the German Army General Staff, Department for War Maps and Surveying.



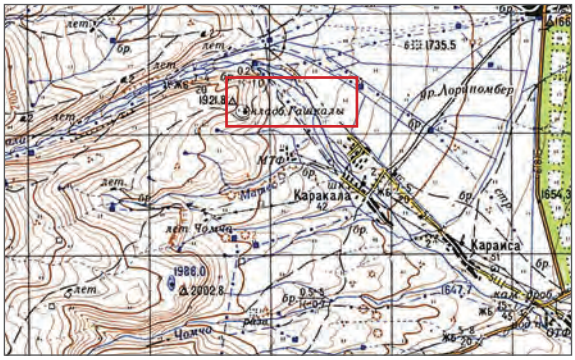
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



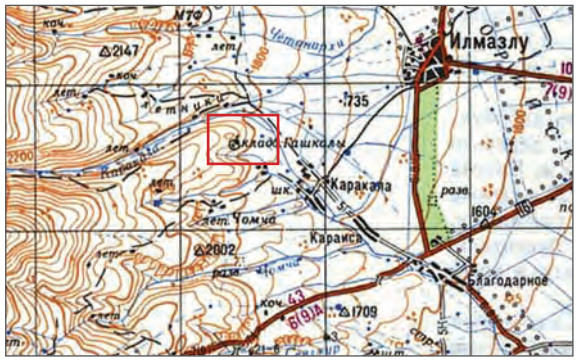
1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1978

Marked on a *1:200,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1978 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Ilmazli Village Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Ilmazli village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Dashtadem village (Armenian)
ID: 151 [MC-001], 41.136761, 44.171667

Ilmazli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region. It was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991.

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Ilmazli, previously part of the Ilmazli village commune[1] of the Lori police district in *Borchali uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[2] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[3] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[4] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. On December 14, 1918, Ilmazli village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[5] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.[6] On September 3, 1919, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Gurbanov, the commissioner of the Ilmazli village commune, the population of Ilmazli and other Azerbaijani-populated villages authorized their commissioner to petition for unification with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and delegated him to represent them at the conference of the South Caucasus states.[7]

Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Ilmazli village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[8]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Ilmazli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia dated August 8, 1991, the village was renamed Dashtadem.[9]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The spatial analysis conducted using the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982,[10] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the area covered by the cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.5 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and November 19, 2007[11] (Quickbird-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis results indicate that the cemetery was obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2007.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2007 and 2023[12] further confirms that the destruction had already been completed long ago. Alongside the obliteration of the cemetery, the entire village was looted and obliterated. At present, only the foundations and partial wall remains of several ruined houses can be observed in the village.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located inside the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:210,000 scale)[13], 1933 (1:42,000)[14], 1937 (1:210,000)[15], 1975 (1:50,000)[16], and 1976 (1:100,000)[17]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

1. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
2. *Respublika Armeniya v 1918–1920 gg. (politicheskaya istoriya). Sbornik dokumentov i materialov* (Yerevan: Izdatel'stvo "Gitutyun" NAN RA, 2000), 49.
3. Richard G. Hovannisian, *The Republic of Armenia: The First Year, 1918–1919,* vol. 1 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971), p.73.
4. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 1, d 17, l. 2.
5. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 2, d. 88, ll. 15–17.
6. ARDA, f.897, op.1, d. 31, l.44.
7. ARDA, f. 970, op. 1, d. 103, l. 18
8. Iz protokola № 13 zasedaniya Plenuma Kavbyuro TsK RKP(b) (7 iyulya 1921 g.), RGASPI, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, ll. 131–131 ob., Verified copy.
9. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 15 (995), 15 ogostosi 1991 t., Yerevan, 34.
10. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-301117F011*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
11. *QuickBird-2*, November 19, 2007, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
12. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
13. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 7, *List E*, scale 1:210,000, 1931.
14. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-32 (*Vorontsovka*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1933.
15. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie,Ряд 7, List *E,* scale 1:210,000, 1937.
16. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-V (*Katnakhpiur*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1978.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 151
Location: Ilmazli village (*present-day Dashtadem village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

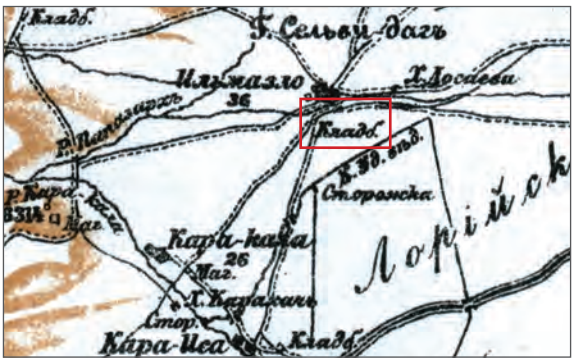
ID: 151
Location: Ilmazli village (*present-day Dashtadem village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 19, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Digital Globe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 151
Location: Ilmazli village (*present-day Dashtadem village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 15, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

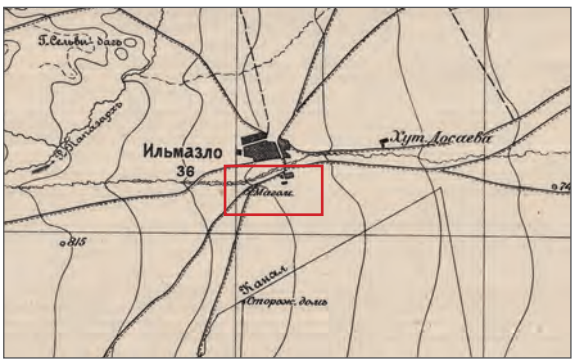
1931

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



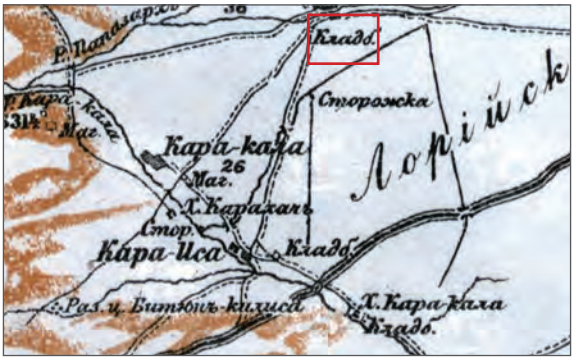
1933

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



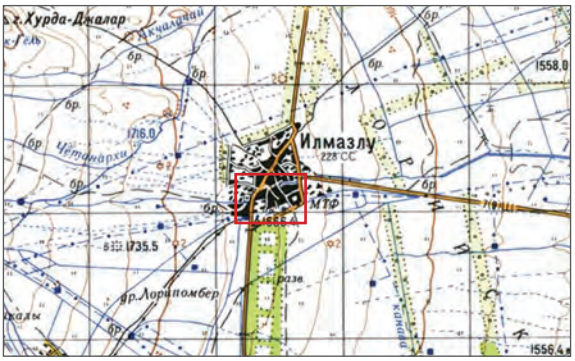
1937

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1937 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



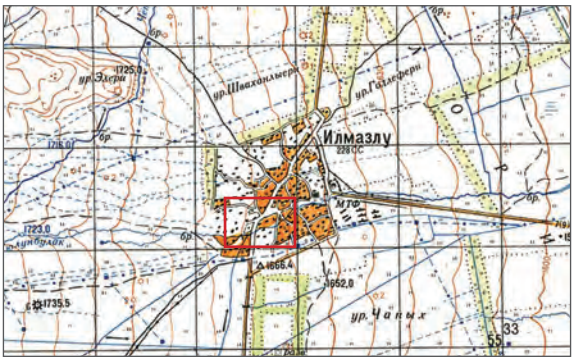
1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

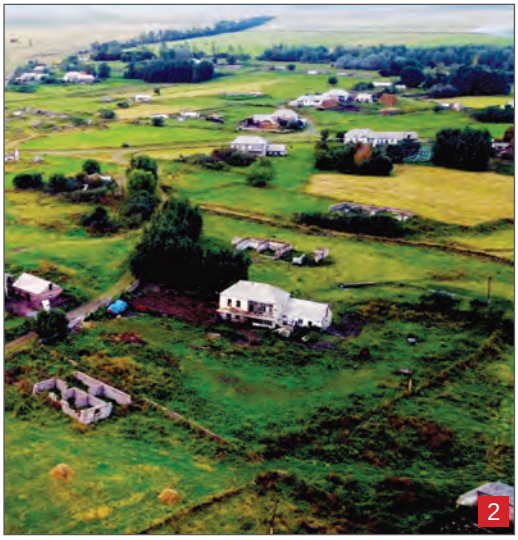


1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:



Status: UNDISTURBED

Jujakend Village Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Jujakend village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Dzyunashogh village (Armenian)
ID: 155 [MC-455], 41.182433, 44.191151

Jujakend was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region. It was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991. Historical sources mention the village as early as 1873. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 468 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[1]

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Jujakend, previously part of the Ilmazli village commune[2] of the Lori police district in *Borchali uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[3] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[4] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[5] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. Between December 29 and 31, 1918, Jujakend village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[6] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.[7] On September 3, 1919, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Gurbanov, the commissioner of the Ilmazli village commune, the population of Jujakend and other Azerbaijani villages authorized their commissioner to petition for unification with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and delegated him to represent them at the conference of the South Caucasus states.[8]

Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Jujakend village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[9] In 1921, the village was inhabited by 474 Azerbaijanis.[10] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Jujakend was renamed Gizil Shafag.[11]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, over 1,500 Azerbaijani residents of Jujakend village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated August 8, 1991, the village was renamed Dzyunashogh.[13]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The spatial analysis conducted using the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982,[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the area covered by the cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.04 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1982, November 15, 2017[15] (CNES/Airbus) and October 15, 2023[16] (Airbus) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, the Azerbaijani cemetery of Jujakend remained intact. This preservation is attributed to an agreement reached during the population exchange: when the Azerbaijani residents left Jujakend for Azerbaijan, they came to an understanding with Armenians relocating from Karkanj village in the Shamakhi district to Armenia, ensuring that the cemetery would not be disturbed.[17]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated at the eastern edge of the village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1933 (1:42,000 scale)[18] and 1975 (1:50,000[19] and 1:100,000 scales)[20]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 Soviet topographic map, the authors confirmed the precise coordinates of the cemetery site on the 1982 Hexagon imagery.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
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5. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 1, d 17, l. 2.
6. SEA.TsSSA, f. 1864, op. 2, d. 88, ll. 15–17.
7. ARDA, f.897, op.1, d. 31, l.44.
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15. *WorldView-2*, 27 November 15, 2017, Maxar via Esri Map.
16. October 15, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
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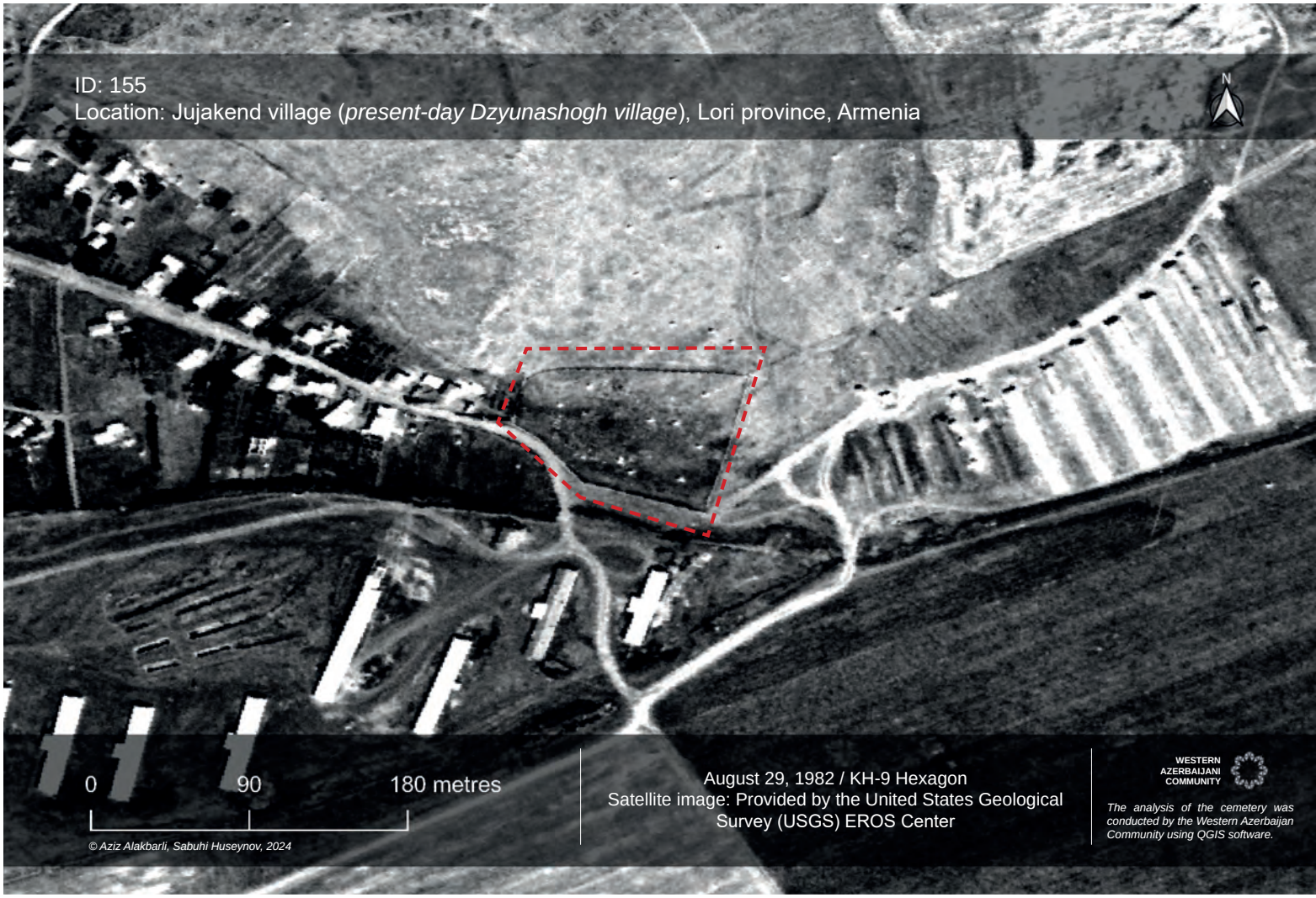
19. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-A (*Dmanisi*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
20. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.


ID: 155
Location: Jujakend village (*present-day Dzyunashogh village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 155
Location: Jujakend village (*present-day Dzyunashogh village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 15, 2017 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 155
Location: Jujakend village (*present-day Dzyunashogh village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
90
180 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 21, 2021 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

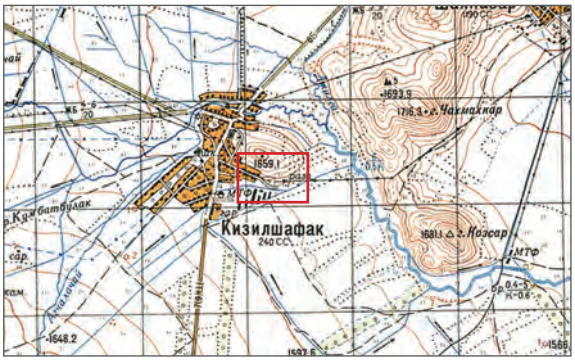
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1933

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

4

© Karo Sahakyan, September, 2012

From 1989 to 2021

Status: OBLITERATED

Molla Ayyublu (Evli) Village Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Evli village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Dzoramut village (Armenian)
ID: 184 [MC-571], 41.190080, 44.294466

Molla Ayyublu was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Borchali region. It was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991. Historical sources refer to the village as a Muslim village as early as the second half of the 19th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Muslims" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). The village was also known by other names, including Molla Eyyublu and Novruz *kharaba*. According to the 1914 edition of the Caucasian Calendar ('Kavkazskii kalendar'), the village had 127 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

Following the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, the village of Molla Ayyublu, previously part of the Ilmazli village commune[3] of the Lori police district in *Borchali uezd*, which was administratively subordinate to the Tiflis Governorate, was considered a *disputed* territory among the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. For this reason, the Ottoman Empire declared that it would maintain control over certain areas, including the southern part of the Lori police district, until border issues were resolved.[4] In early October 1918, the Ottoman army withdrew from the region,[5] and simultaneously, on October 18, 1918, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied the southern part of the Lori police district and began advancing northward.[6] This movement led to a brief war between Armenia and Georgia. On December 14, 1918, Molla Ayyublu village was occupied by Armenian armed forces.[7]

On December 31, 1918, the conflict was halted through the efforts of the British mission, and following negotiations between Armenia and Georgia, it was decided on January 17, 1919, that the Lori police district of Borchali *uezd* would be declared a neutral zone.[8] The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic protested this decision, declaring that it would not recognize such a division.[9] Following the establishment of Soviet rule, a decision adopted at the July 7, 1921 plenary session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) transferred the former neutral zone of Lori to the Armenian SSR, and within this framework, Molla Ayyublu village was also incorporated into the Armenian SSR.[10] In 1921, 271 Azerbaijanis lived in the village.[11] The village was renamed Evli during the Soviet period.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Evli village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, the village was renamed Dzoramut.[13]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The spatial analysis conducted using the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 31, 1975,[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the area covered by the cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.96 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery from 1982 (KH-9 Hexagon) and August 29, 2010[15] (Maxar) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings indicate that 0.43 hectares of the cemetery area identified in Hexagon imagery had been cleared of tombstones and completely obliterated by this time. A new Armenian cemetery was established in that section of the site. In the remaining 0.53 hectares, tombstones belonging to Azerbaijanis were found to have survived. The northern part of the area had been plowed in certain sections and incorporated into farmland, while in the southern part, new land was added, resulting in the expansion of the new Armenian cemetery during that period.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2010 and 2017[16] (Maxar) confirmed the continued presence of a large number of tombstones within an area of 0.53 hectares.

Video and photo documentation recorded at the Evli cemetery on December 19, 2020, enabled a more precise analysis of the site (Images Nos. 1-9). The individual who conducted the recordings claimed that the Armenian cemetery was established adjacent to, and as a continuation of, the Azerbaijani cemetery, presenting this as an example of tolerance, stating that it did not disturb the Armenian community. In reality, however, as the above evidence demonstrates, the Armenian cemetery was not established near the Azerbaijani cemetery, but rather on 0.43 hectares of its territory that had been obliterated. Photographs clearly show that, as of December 19, 2020, the date the images were taken, numerous tombstones, which form part of the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani peo-

ID: 184
Location: Evli village (present-day Dzoramut village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 1975 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ple, were indeed still present. These graves were located in the northern section of the area that had not been obliterated.

To assess the situation following 2020[17], the authors conducted another spatial analysis using satellite imagery dated October 17, 2021[18] (WorldView-2). According to the results of the analysis, the cemetery was set on fire after the date on which the photographs were taken.

An analysis of satellite imagery dated 2021 and September 6, 2023[19] (Airbus) revealed that the cemetery was obliterated.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 900 meters south-southwest of Evli village, at the junction where the village road connects to the highway leading to Georgia. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[20] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[21]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1975 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god, Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), p.160.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
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12. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi azärbayjanlïlarïn 1988-ji il soyqïrïmï (sänädlärin dili ilä)* (Baku: Nurlan, 2008), 120.
13. *Hayastani Hanrapetut'yan Geraguyn Khorhrdi Telegagir,* no. 7 (987), 15 aprili 1991 t., Yerevan, 29.
14. KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1210-300542F059, August 31, 1975, USGS EROS Data Center.
15. August 29, 2010, Maxar via Google Earth.
16. August 09, 2017, Maxar via Google Earth.
17. May 31, 2020, CNES/Airbus via Google Earth.
18. *WorldView-3*, October 12, 2021, Maxar.
19. Septemebr 06, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
20. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-B (*Sarchapet*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
21. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 184
Location: Evli village (*present-day Dzoramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 2010
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 184
Location: Evli village (*present-day Dzoramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 9, 2017
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

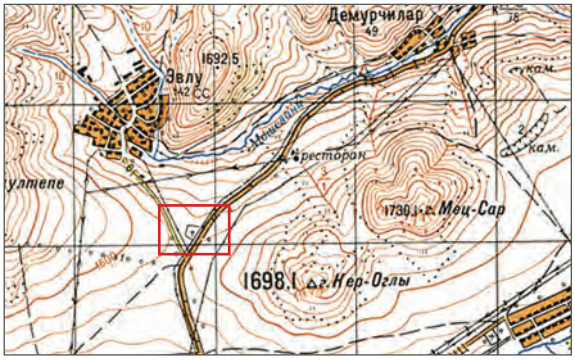
ID: 184
Location: Evli village (*present-day Dzoramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 12, 2021 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 184
Location: Evli village (*present-day Dzoramut village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
20
40 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 6, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

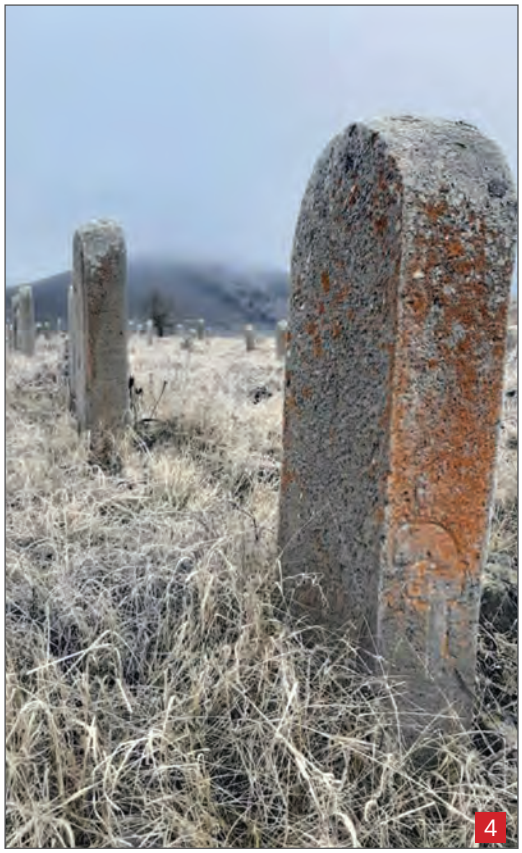
2021 PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

1

2

3

© Natalia Moshenskaya, December 19, 2020


4

5

6

7

8

9

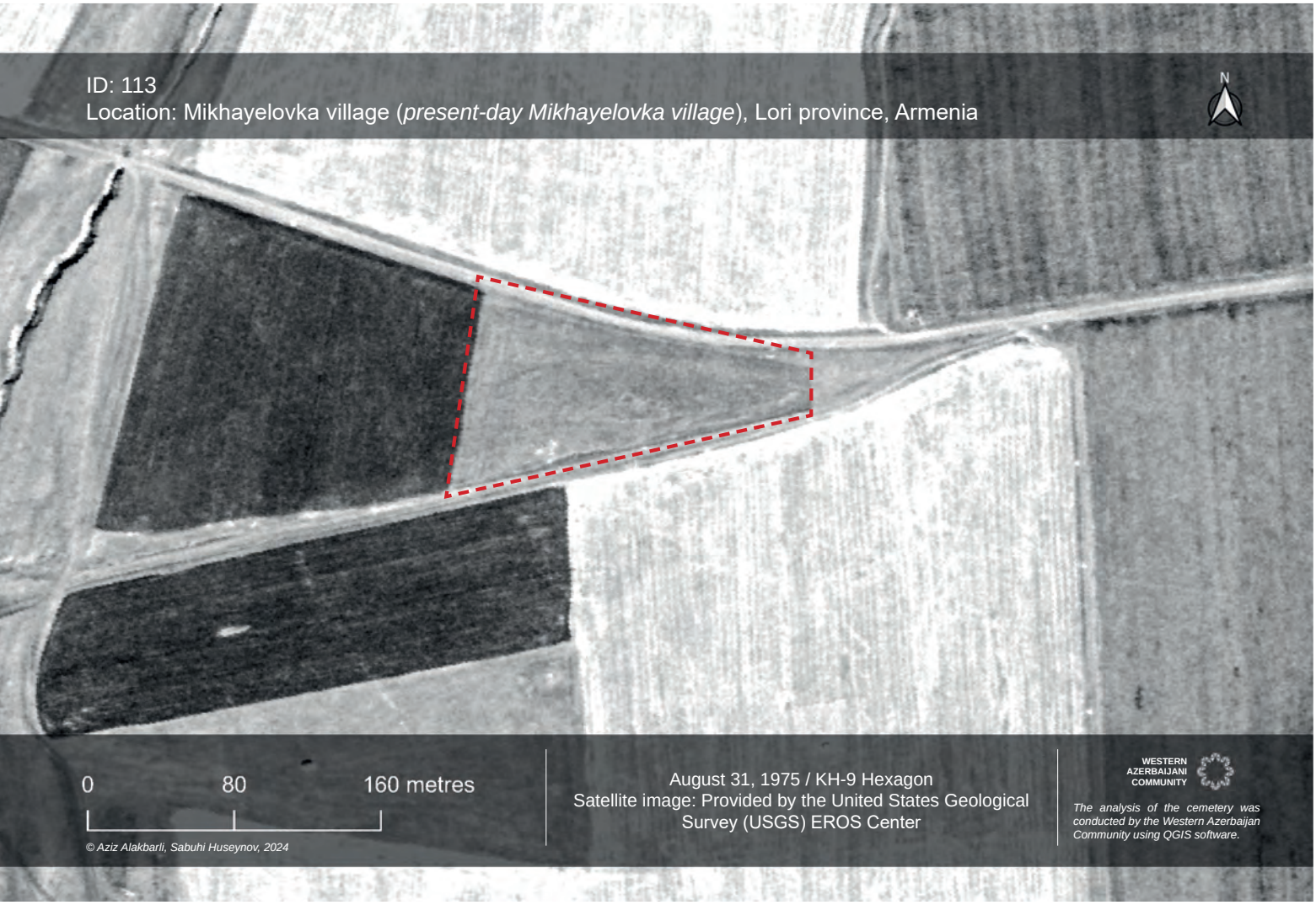
© Natalia Moshenskaya, December 19, 2020

From 1989 to 2007

Status: OBLITERATED

Mikhayelovka Village Muslim Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Mikhayelovka village (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Mikhayelovka village (Armenian)
ID: 113 [MC-121], 41.181111, 44.271584


ID: 113
Location: Mikhayelovka village (*present-day Mikhayelovka village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 31, 1975 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

A Muslim-Azerbaijani cemetery located near Mikhayelovka village in the Borchali region. The area was incorporated into Kalinino district on December 31, 1937, Stepanavan district in 1962, again Kalinino district in 1964 and Tashir district in 1991. Although no information about the cemetery is found in scholarly literature, it is marked as a Muslim cemetery on 19th–20th century military and civil topographic maps. The authors believe that the cemetery dates back to the 18th century or earlier.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

In the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 31, 1975[1] the Muslim cemetery near Mikhayelovka village was identified as covering an area of 1.6 hectares and enclosed by fencing. The area was observed as having a heterogeneous surface.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 1975 and January 22, 2007[2] (QuickBird-2) reveals that by the latter date, the cemetery had been destroyed and converted into agricultural land. By 2007, the surface of 1.05 hectares of the medieval Muslim cemetery had been cleared and plowed for cultivation.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located 800 meters north of Mikhayelovka village. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[3] and 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[4]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1975 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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2. QuickBird-2, January 22, 2007, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
3. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXX-32 (*Vorontsovka*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1933.
4. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-V (*Katnakhpiur*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1978.

ID: 113
Location: Mikhayelovka village (*present-day Mikhayelovka village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 22, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Digital Globe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

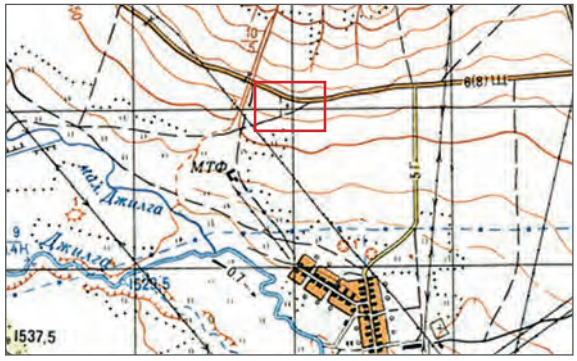
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1933

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1933 by the USSR Military Topography Directorate.

1975

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



2019

Status: OBLITERATED

Vorontsovka Settlement Cemetery

Location: Kalinino district, Kalinino (Vorontsovka) settlement (Azerbaijani) / Lori province, Tashir town (Armenian)
ID: 146 [MC-436], 41.1238248, 44.2935061

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In late 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Vorontsovka settlement took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[1] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, it was renamed Tashir.[2]

The cemetery located in the territory of Vorontsovka settlement was used by both Russians and Azerbaijanis.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

The spatial analysis conducted using the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated August 29, 1982[3] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the area covered by the cemetery. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 4.7 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site. Additionally, the analysis confirmed that the cemetery was enclosed by a fence.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and August 29, 2010[4] (WorldView-2) (at right, bottom) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2010. According to the 2010 imagery, a new Armenian cemetery had been established to the south of the cemetery.

Subsequent imagery confirmed that the cemetery was gradually cleared and repurposed for new Armenian burials. Satellite imagery from February and November 2019 confirmed the burning of the old cemetery site.[5] The WorldView-3 imagery dated November 17, 2019[6] showed evidence that the fire in the old cemetery area was still ongoing. This cemetery, once used by individuals of Muslim, Orthodox, and Gregorian faiths, has been converted into a burial ground exclusively for Armenians of the Gregorian faith, with older Muslim and Russian graves having been destroyed. This was further confirmed by satellite imagery dated September 6, 2023.[7]

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated northeast of Vorontsovka settlement. This site is marked on Soviet topographic maps from 1975 (1:50,000 scale)[8] and 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[9]. Using the coordinates from the 1975 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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3. *KH-9 Hexagon,D3C1210-300542F059*, August 29, 1982, USGS EROS Data Center.
4. *WorldView-2*, August 29, 2010, Maxar via EsriMap
5. *GeoEye-1*, Feburary 04, 2019, Maxar via EsriMap.
6. *WorldView-3*, November 17, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
7. September 06, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
8. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101-G (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1975.
9. General'nyĭ Shtab, K-38-101 (*Stepanavan*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.

ID: 146
Location: Vorontsovka settlement (*present-day Tashir village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 146
Location: Vorontsovka settlement (*present-day Tashir village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 29, 2010 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 146
Location: Vorontsovka settlement (present-day Tashir village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 4, 2019 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

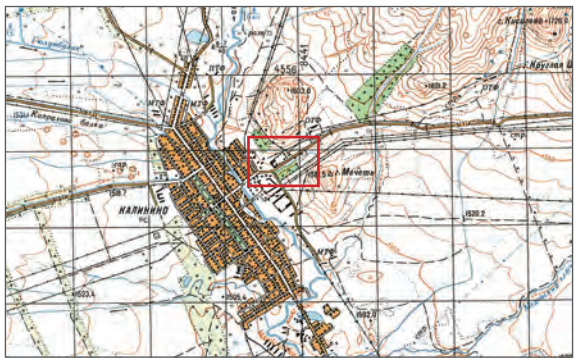
ID: 146
Location: Vorontsovka settlement (present-day Tashir village), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 17, 2019 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 146
Location: Vorontsovka settlement (*present-day Tashir village*), Lori province, Armenia
N
0
80
160 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
September 6, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

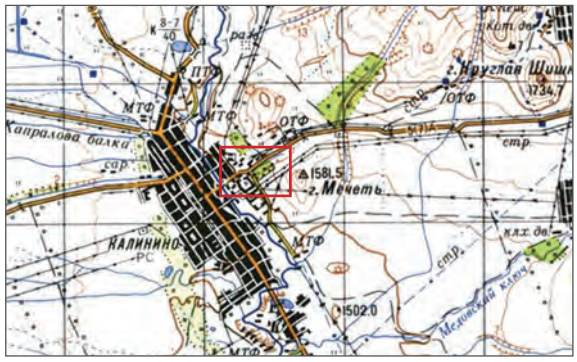
1975

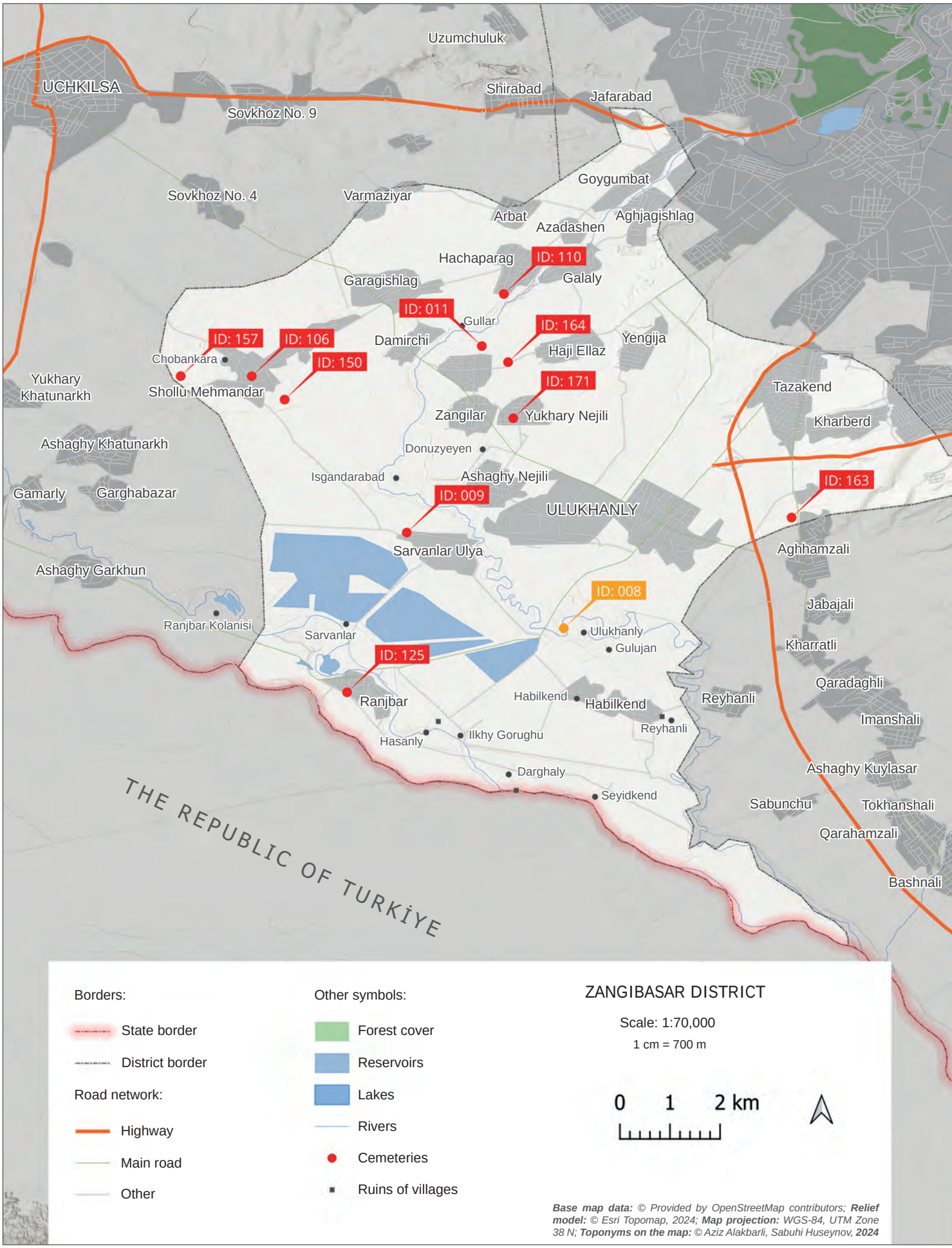
Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1975 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1976

Marked on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.




Uzumchuluk
UCHKILSA
Shirabad
Jafarabad
Sovkhoz No. 9
Sovkhoz No. 4
Varmaziyar
Goygumbat
Arbat
Azadashen
Aghjagishlag
Hachaparag
ID: 110
Galaly
Garagishlag
ID: 011
Gullar
ID: 164
Yengija
Haji Ellaz
Damirchi
ID: 157
ID: 106
ID: 150
Chobankara
Shollu Mehmandar
Yukhary Khatunarkh
ID: 171
Yukhary Nejili
Zangilar
Tazakend
Kharberd
Ashaghy Khatunarkh
Donuzyeyen
Isgandarabad
Ashaghy Nejili
ID: 163
Gamarly
Garghabazar
ID: 009
ULUKHANLY
Sarvanlar Ulya
Aghhamzali
Ashaghy Garkhun
ID: 008
Jabajali
Ranjbar Kolanisi
Sarvanlar
Ulukhanly
Gulujan
Kharratli
ID: 125
Qaradaghli
Habilkend
Habilkend
Reyhanli
Ranjbar
Reyhanli
Imanshali
Hasanly
Ilkhy Gorughu
Ashaghy Kuylasar
Darghaly
Seyidkend
Sabunchu
Tokhanshali
Qarahamzali
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKİYE
Bashnali
Borders:
State border
District border
Road network:
Highway
Main road
Other
Other symbols:
Forest cover
Reservoirs
Lakes
Rivers
Cemeteries
Ruins of villages
ZANGIBASAR DISTRICT
Scale: 1:70,000
1 cm = 700 m
0 1 2 km
Base map data: © Provided by OpenStreetMap contributors; Relief model: © Esri Topomap, 2024; Map projection: WGS-84, UTM Zone 38 N; Toponyms on the map: © Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024

ZANGIBASAR DISTRICT

Historical-geographical region: Zangibasar *mahal*.
Administrative designation: Zangibasar district.
Establishment date: December 31, 1937.
Area: 170 sq. km.

The Zangibasar district was first established on December 31, 1937, and re-established under the name Masis on January 14, 1969.

The administrative center of the district was the urban-type settlement of Ulukhanli, located 20 km from Iravan city.

According to 1970 data, the district included 2 urban-type settlements, 9 village councils, and 28 residential settlements. The district's population was recorded as 45,600, with 3,600 residing in urban areas and 42,000 in rural areas.

The settlements where Azerbaijanis lived until being forced to flee in 1988 included the villages of Hachaparag, Garagishlag, Ashaghi Nejili, Yukhari Nejili, Ulukhanli, Damirchi, Shollu, Zangilar, Sarvanlar, Ranjbar, Reyhanli, Sarijalar, Habilkend, Gulujan, Seyidkend, and Mehmandar.

In 1995, the district was administratively dissolved, and its territory was incorporated into the Ararat province established by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia dated November 7, 1995.

From 1989 to 1999

Status: DESTROYED

Aghadada Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Habilkend village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Noramarg village (Armenian)
ID: 008 [MC-361], 40.0410780, 44.4139383

Aghadada was a cemetery and a revered pilgrimage site in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located on the right bank of the Zangi river, between the villages of Ulukhanli, Habilkend, Seyidkend, and Sarvanlar. Relying on the fact that it was marked on late 19th-century military topographic maps, the authors suggest that the cemetery had been in use since at least the 19th century. There are records indicating that this place, formerly known as the Hearth of Aghadada, originally consisted of a single grave. Beginning in the 1950s, the cemetery expanded as residents from surrounding villages, and even from the city of Iravan, who had necessary resources, chose to bury their loved ones near this revered site. It remained in use until 1988.[1]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 9, 1967[2] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 2.3 hectares, and gravestones were identified on the site. By that time, the cemetery had become fully established, with surrounding walls and a rectangular shrine and mosque identified at its center. Cultivated fields were located in the northern part of the area.

A comparative analysis of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1967 and July 3, 1980[3] revealed that trees were planted along the cemetery's perimeter fences and that the cemetery had been laid out in an orderly manner.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and January 9, 2007[4] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis determined that the cemetery suffered severe destruction between 1989 and 2007. The authors supplemented this analysis with video footage from the early 2000s, which showed that most of the tombstones had been destroyed and that surrounding infrastructure, including the fence and trees, had disappeared. The footage also made it clear that all valuable stones within the cemetery had been carefully removed and taken away, providing evidence of looting. In many areas, the use of heavy machinery during the destruction process was observed, indicating that the cemetery's demolition was systematic and deliberate.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2007 and April 16, 2023[5] (Airbus) confirmed that the destruction continued in subsequent years without interruption. In the latter imagery, new areas of destruction were identified in the central part of the cemetery.

The recent photographs taken by blogger Gurdeep Mattu and shared on his social media accounts further confirm the brutal destruction of the cemetery.[5] The scale of the destroyed tombstones and the absence of headstones in various parts of the site clearly illustrate both acts of vandalism and damage caused by heavy machinery. The photographs show that the vast majority of tombstones have been completely destroyed (Images Nos. 1–6).

Thus, Aghadada hearth and cemetery, once a sacred site visited with great reverence and respect by the region's Azerbaijani population, was subjected to systematic and deliberate destruction beginning in 1989, continuing into the early 2000s, and was almost entirely obliterated. In the subsequent period, this process continued, and the site began to be used as a raw material depot, a practice that has not ceased to this day.

As a result of vandalism and the use of heavy machinery, the layout and physical features of the cemetery were completely destroyed. Tombstones were shattered, and no significant surface-level structural elements were preserved. The damage inflicted was not merely physical; the extent of destruction reflects an expression of hatred toward an ethnic group and community. This hatred toward the Azerbaijani people led the Republic of Armenia to erase cemeteries, tangible cultural heritage, and historical memory linked to Azerbaijanis. Regrettably, due to such irresponsible actions by the Republic of Armenia, the past of the Azerbaijani community that once lived in these areas has been reduced, for future generations, to a history preserved only in archival documents and satellite imagery.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is located on the bank of the Zangi river, 2 km north of the former Habilkend village. This site was marked as a Muslim cemetery on a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[6]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit imagery and 1980 KH-9 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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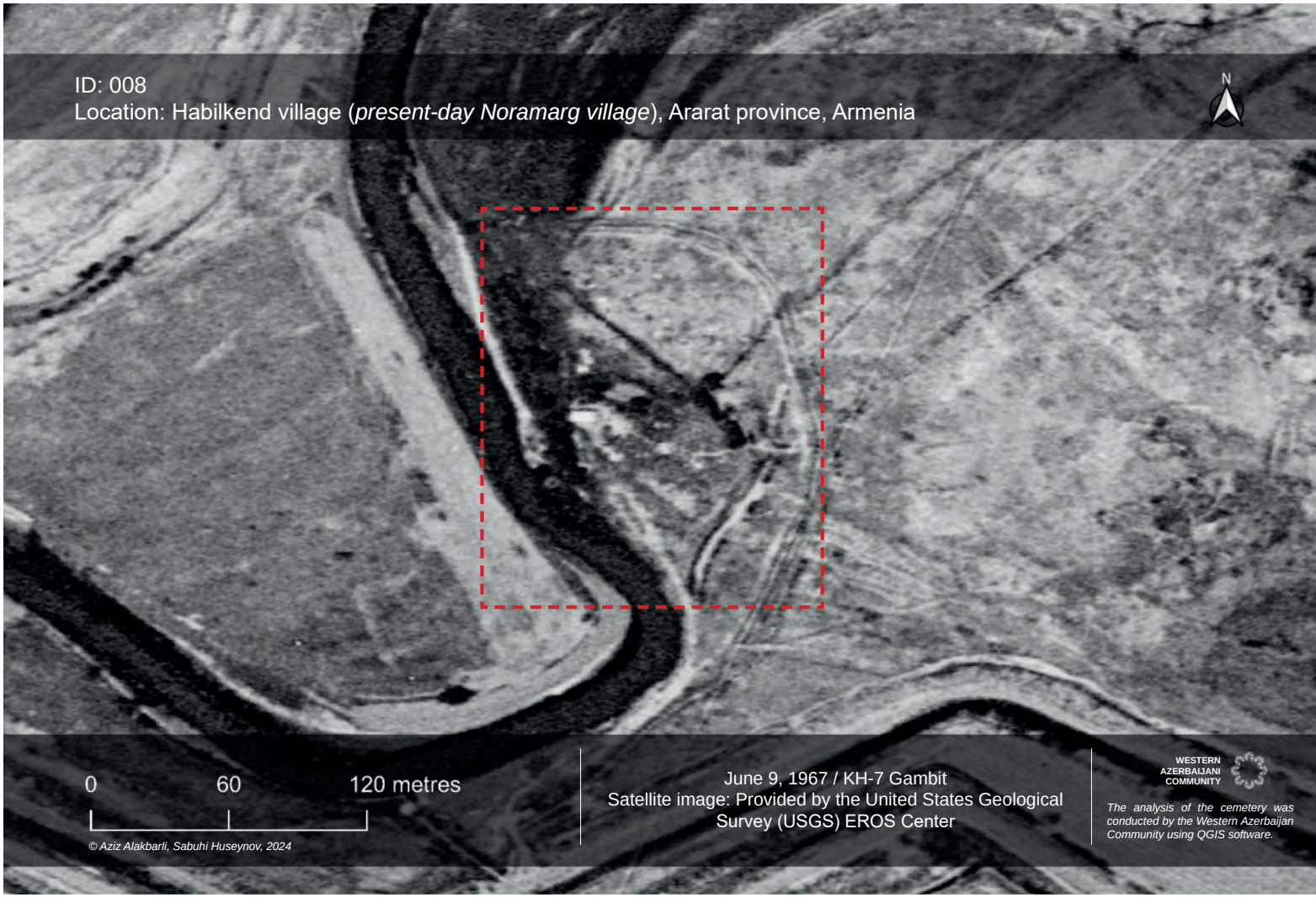
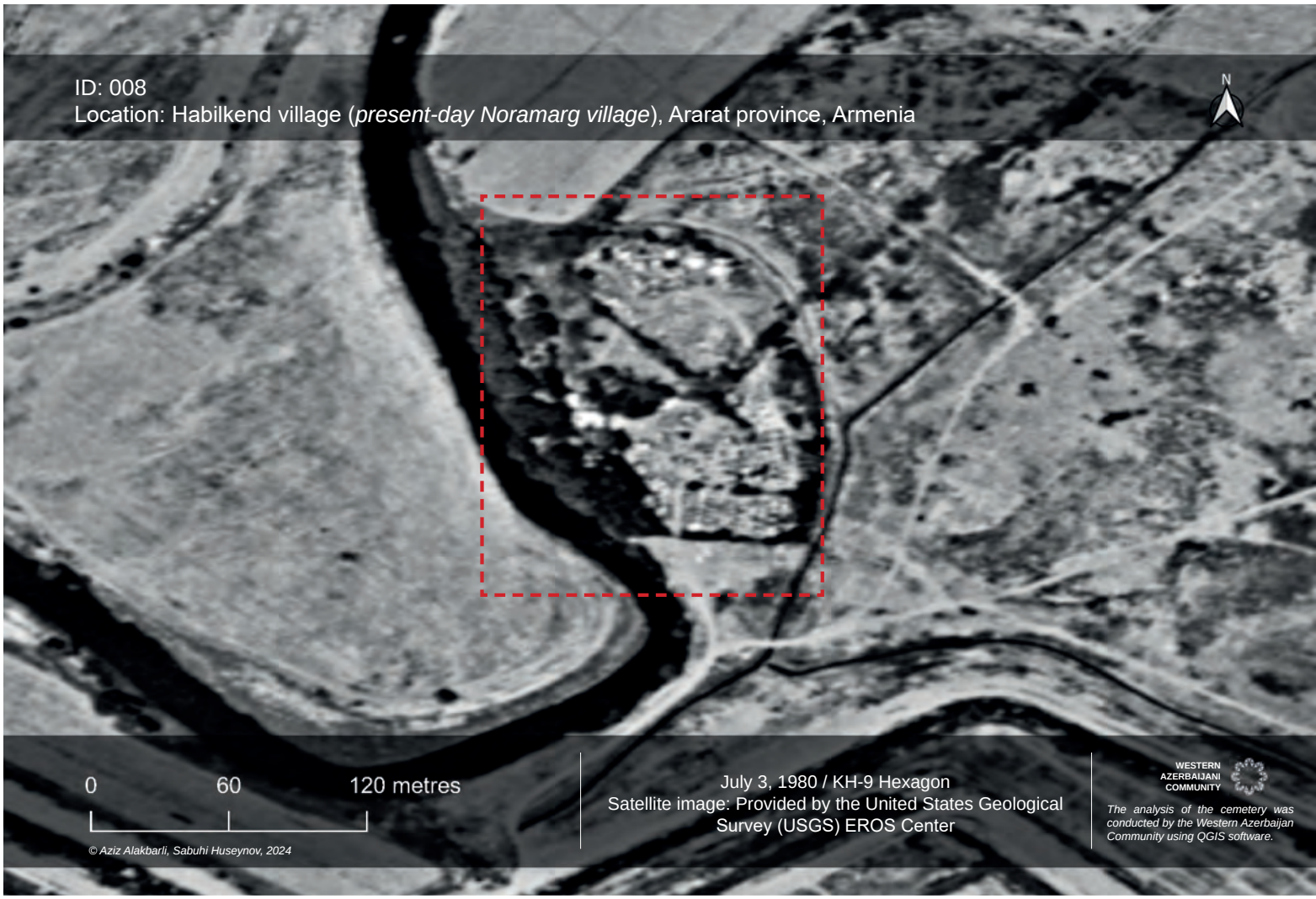
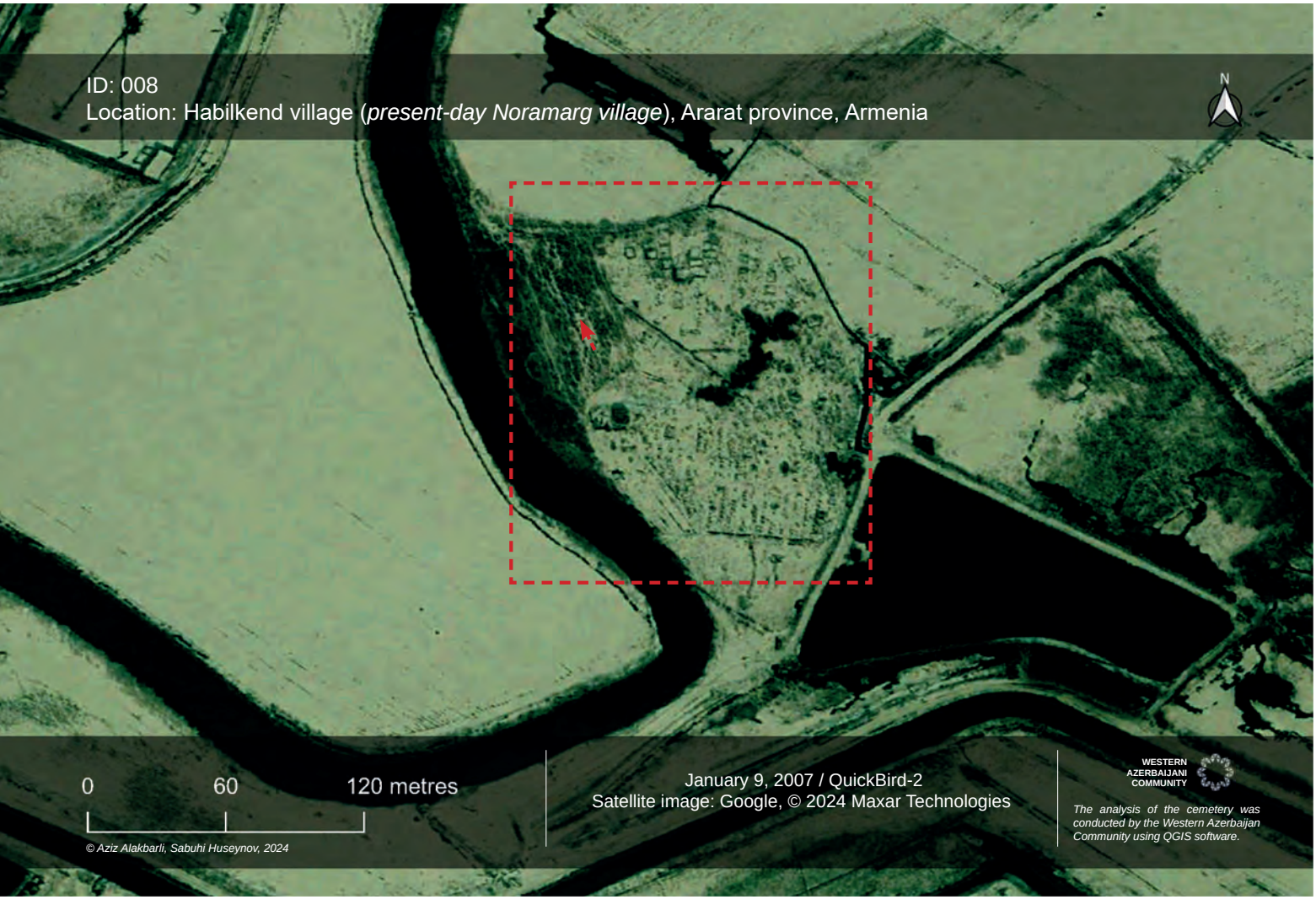
3. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138F002*, July 03, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
4. *QuickBird-2*, January 09, 2007, Maxar via Google Earth.
5. April 16, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
6. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.


ID: 008
Location: Habilkend village (present-day Noramarg village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 008
Location: Habilkend village (present-day Noramarg village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.


ID: 008
Location: Habilkend village (*present-day Noramarg village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
January 9, 2007 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 008
Location: Habilkend village (*present-day Noramarg village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 16, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE CEMETERY:

© Gurdeep Mattu, 2022

From 1989 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Damirchi Village Old Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Damirchi village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Drabnik village (Armenian)
ID: 011 [MC-362], 40.1069167, 44.3948197

Damirchi was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located on the bank of the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. The name of the village has been mentioned in historical sources since the late 16th century.[1] In subsequent periods, the village was also referred to as Damirchiliye-Shollu, Kichik Shorlu Damirchi, Damirchi, Damirchili, and Shollu Damirchi. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), which referred to the village as '*Shorlu-Damirchi*', the village had 2,216 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Shorlu-Damirchi village, which had previously been part of the Shirabad village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Shorlu-Damirchi village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 238 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. By 1926, the number of returnees had grown to 471.[9]

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Shorlu-Damirchi village was renamed Damirchi.[10]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On June 19 and 20, 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Damirchi village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[11] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, Damirchi village was renamed Drabnik.[12]

Damirchi village had two cemeteries. The first cemetery was located alongside the Shollu cemetery and came to be known as the old cemetery. Ram-shaped tombstone monuments were present within the cemetery until the deportation of 1988. The other cemetery served as the village's new burial ground, which began to be established in the 1950s; however, by the late 1980s, residents increasingly chose to bury their deceased relatives in the Aghadada cemetery.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated June 16, 1982[13] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.5 hectares, with tombstones characterized by a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. Such features are typically observed in cemetery areas rich in old and partially sunken tombstones. The cemetery was situated on a hill approximately 3–4 meters high.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1982 and April 21, 2004[14] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. Findings indicate that 0.63 hectares of the cemetery area were obliterated at some point between 1989 and 2004. The cleared section of the site was converted into agricultural land. The dense growth of vegetation indicates that the destruction likely occurred at least a decade earlier. In 0.87 hectares of the cemetery, the area appears to be covered with freshly turned soil, likely the result of bulldozing. In the southern part of the cemetery, the construction of residential buildings has been identified.

To narrow down the timeframe and determine the approximate date of this obliteration, the authors converted spectral imagery from the 3rd and 4th bands of the Landsat 5 satellite into NDVI values, allowing them to track vegetation changes in the area between 1989 and 2004. A sharp decline in NDVI values between 1989 and 1991 *(0.1 and lower, A.A., S.H.*) suggests that events occurred during this period which disrupted plant growth in the area. This may have resulted from earthmoving operations carried out on the cemetery site.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2004 and April 13, 2012[15] (WorldView-2) shows that the situation in the remaining intact section of the cemetery remained stable and that earthmoving operations had temporarily ceased.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2012 and April 28, 2013[16] (GeoEye-1) confirmed the resumption and intensification of earthmoving activities in the area.

Further comparison of satellite imagery dated 2013 and November 28, 2022[17] (WorldView-3) indicated that earthmoving activity had subsided by the latter date.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2022 and April 16, 2023[18] (Airbus) confirmed the intensification of earthmoving and leveling operations across the entire cemetery area.

Thus, the 1.5-hectare cemetery, which had been in use since the 16th century and was notable for its historical depth and unique tombstone monuments, was destroyed between 1989 and 1991. Of this, 0.63 hectares were completely obliterated—this portion of the hill area was leveled and converted into agricultural land. The destruction continued, and ultimately, between 2022 and 2023, the eastern part of the hill on which the cemetery was located was also entirely leveled with the use of bulldozers within just four months. The ancient 1.5-hectare cemetery area identified in 1982

ID: 011
Location: Damirchi village (present-day Drabnik village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 16, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

satellite imagery has been completely erased.

The destruction of the old cemetery of Damirchi village inflicted serious damage on the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijanis. The cemetery of Damirchi village symbolized the historical and religious significance of this community. Its destruction severed the community's connection to its historical roots. For Azerbaijanis, this site holds deep personal and collective spiritual significance, representing their connection to their ancestors. Its destruction signifies the severing of that connection and the erasure of their spiritual and cultural identity. This process of destruction represents the deliberate erasure of the Azerbaijani people's historical memory and the annihilation of a culturally significant space.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery lies 150 meters northeast of Damirchi village, situated atop a hill 3 to 4 meters high. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[19] and 1983 (1:25,000[20] and 1:50,000 scales)[21]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1982 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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15. WorldView-2, April 13, 2012, Maxar via Google Earth.
16. GeoEye-1, April 28, 2013, Maxar via Google Earth.
17. WorldView-3, November 28, 2022, Maxar via Google Earth.
18. April 16, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
19. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
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ID: 011
Location: Damirchi village (*present-day Drabnik village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 21, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 011
Location: Damirchi village (*present-day Drabnik village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
50
100 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 13, 2012 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 011
Location: Damirchi village (*present-day Drabnik village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 28, 2013 / GeoEye-1
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 011
Location: Damirchi village (*present-day Drabnik village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 28, 2022 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 011
Location: Damirchi village (*present-day Drabnik village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 16, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

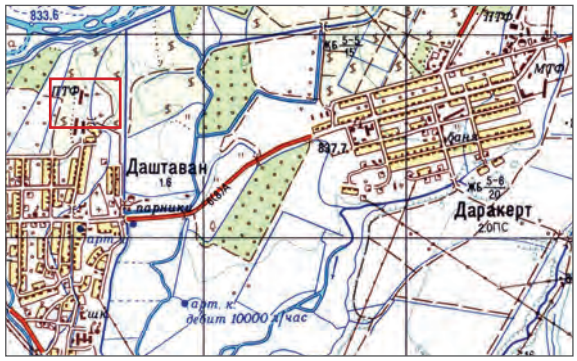
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

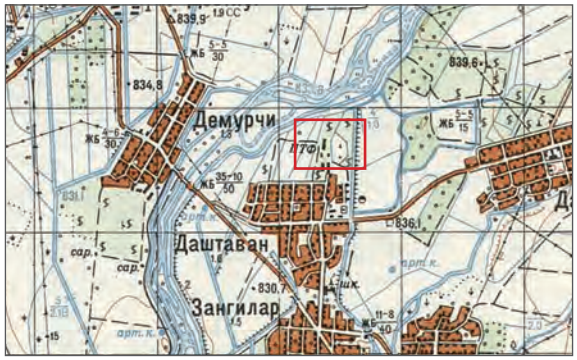
1983

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* topographic map of Iravan city published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CEMETERY:

Prior to 1989

Status: OBLITERATED

Garadolag Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Chobankara village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Hovtashen village (Armenian)
ID: 157 [MC-285], 40.0999094, 44.3245580

Garadolag was an Azerbaijani cemetery located near Chobankara village in the Zangibasar *mahal*. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. According to scholarly sources, several graves at this site were once topped with large ram sculptures during the Soviet period.[1] The residents of Garadolag belonged to a branch of the Kangarli tribe. In the 18th century, this tribe abandoned Chobankara village en masse, and from that time onward, the former inhabitants of Chobankara settled in this village.[2]

Garadolag cemetery was one of the ancient Muslim cemeteries of the region.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated June 9, 1967[3] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. Through analysis, the location of the cemetery was identified. However, due to the lack of clearly defined boundaries, it was not possible to determine its total area. The available satellite image is considered the earliest one in which tombstones of the cemetery can be seen.

However, in satellite imagery from the 1980s, the cemetery is no longer visible. By that time, the cemetery had been completely destroyed, construction had taken place on the site, and irrigation infrastructure had been built in the area.

Satellite imagery dated May 22, 2023[4] revealed the long-past destruction of the site and significant alteration of the landscape.

Thus, the Garadolag cemetery was effectively obliterated between 1967 and 1980. The obliteration of Garadolag cemetery represents a profound historical and cultural loss for the Azerbaijani people. The cemetery is deeply connected to the community's spiritual values, past, and ancestral roots. The destruction of historical cemeteries is not merely the loss of a physical space. It also undermines people's history, traditions, and national identity. The erasure of such cultural heritage must be understood as an act of aggression aimed at severing the Azerbaijani people's connection to their past and erasing their collective memory. It also served the purpose of breaking the community's ties to their land and reinforcing demographic changes in the region.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the northwestern part of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[5]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery with a margin of several tens of meters and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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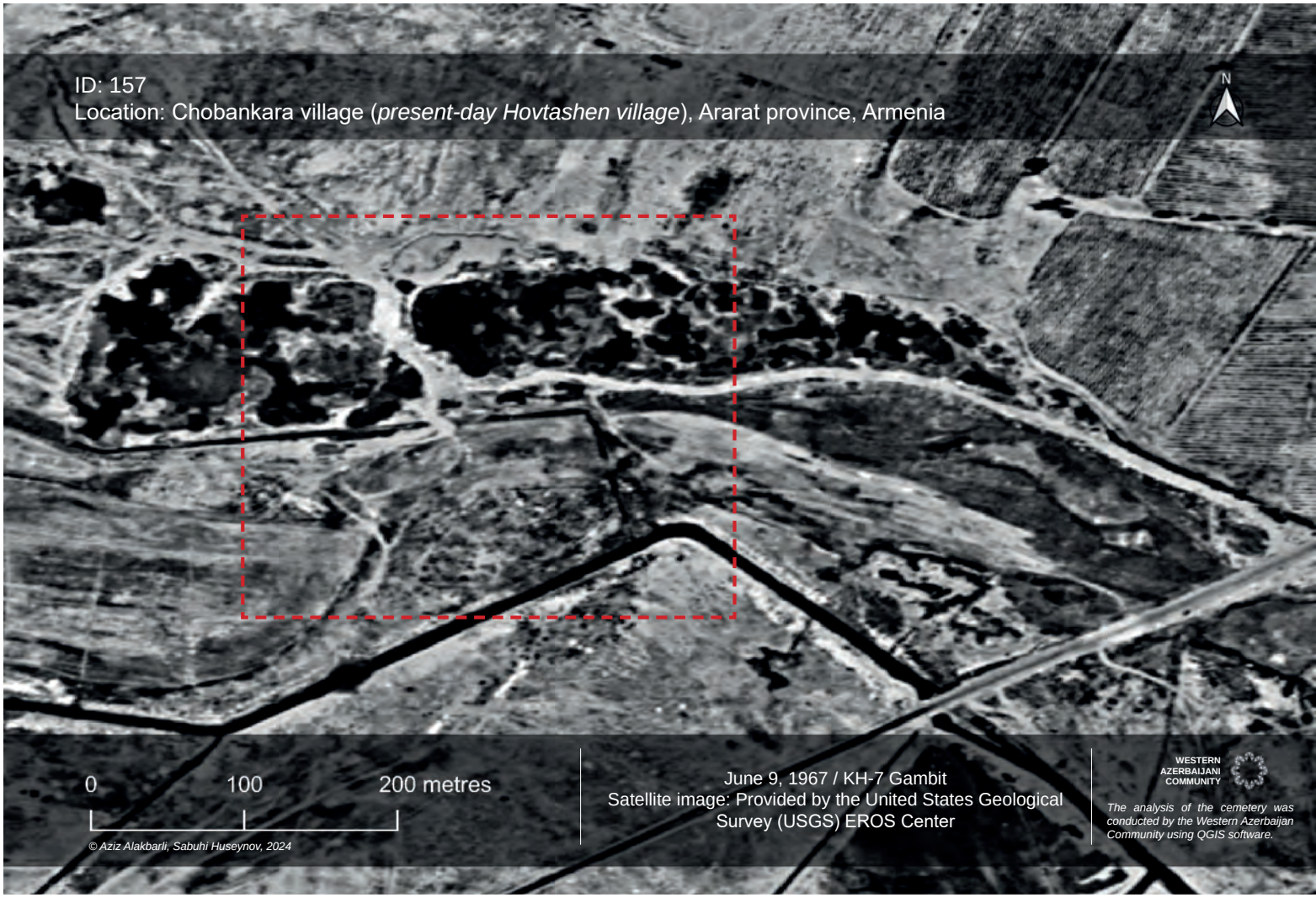
2. Budag Budagov, *Chobankärä eli* (Baku:Elm, 1996).
3. *KH-7 Gambit, DZB00403800073H015001*, June 09, 1967, USGS EROS Data Center.
4. May 22, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
5. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.


ID: 157
Location: Chobankara village (*present-day Hovtashen village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 157
Location: Chobankara village (*present-day Hovtashen village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 22, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1980 to 1982

Status: OBLITERATED

Haji Ellaz Village Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Haji Ellaz village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Darakert village (Armenian)
ID: 164 [MC-479], 40.103160, 44.400938

Haji Ellaz was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located near the Zangi river, along the Gambul irrigation canal. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the 16th century.[1] In various records, the name appears as Haji Ilyas, Haji Eylas, Haji Elyaz, and Haji Eylaz, while in spoken language it was pronounced as Haji Ellaz.[2] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,143 Azerbaijani (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) residents.[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Haji Ellaz village, which had previously been part of the Norakovit village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Haji Ellaz village within its new administrative boundaries. In 1921, 582 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[8] During the Soviet period, the village was referred to simply as Eylas, and was later renamed Ipakli. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 4, 1946, the village was renamed Masis Sovkhoz Settlement.[9]

In 1949, the entire Azerbaijani population of the village, consisting of 825 people, was deported to the Sabirabad district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[10] From that time onward, the village became fully Armenianized. By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, the village was renamed Darakert.[11]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated June 9, 1967[12] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the analysis, the cemetery spanned an area of 11.67 hectares, with its tombstones characterized primarily by a heterogeneous and patchy surface pattern. Among the cemeteries included in the report, this cemetery was the largest. By 1967, a road had been constructed running from the north-northeast to the south-southwest of the cemetery, effectively dividing it into two parts. Due to the elevated terrain of the site, its original structure has remained intact.

A comparative analysis of KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated 1967 and KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[13] confirmed that the cemetery area had remained largely unchanged during that period. Despite significant destruction across the site, several graves in the southern section were identified. In addition, a comparison of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1980 and June 16, 1982[14] showed that the cemetery area had been completely destroyed and leveled to make the land suitable for cultivation. Finally, QuickBird-2 satellite imagery dated April 21, 2004[15] confirmed that the area had long been obliterated and was already being used as farmland.

Thus, the authors' analysis of satellite imagery determined that the Azerbaijani cemetery, in use since the 16th century, was entirely obliterated between 1980 and 1982.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery of Haji Ellaz village is located to the west of the village. This site was marked as a Muslim cemetery on a Soviet military-topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[16]. This site was marked as a hill area on Soviet topographic maps published in 1976 (1:100,000 scale)[17] and 1983 (1:50,000[18] and 1:25,000 scales[19]). It is highly likely that the cemetery had already been decommissioned as a burial site by the 1970s. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 55.
4. BOA, HR.SYS, no.2375/7, ll.1-4.
5. BOA, MHD, no.460, ll.1-5.
6. *Adres-kalendar' Azerbaidzhanskoi Respubliki na 1920 g.,* ch. 2 (1st year of publication), ed. A. I. Stavrovskii (Baku: Pravitel'stvennaia tipografiia Azerbaidzhan, 1920), 50.
7. *Haraj*, 22 June 1920, no. 129, 2.
8. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 152-153.
9. Armianskaia SSR, *Administrativno-territorial'noe delenie na 1-e marta 1964 goda.* 3rd ed. Erevan: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo Armenii, 1964, 202.
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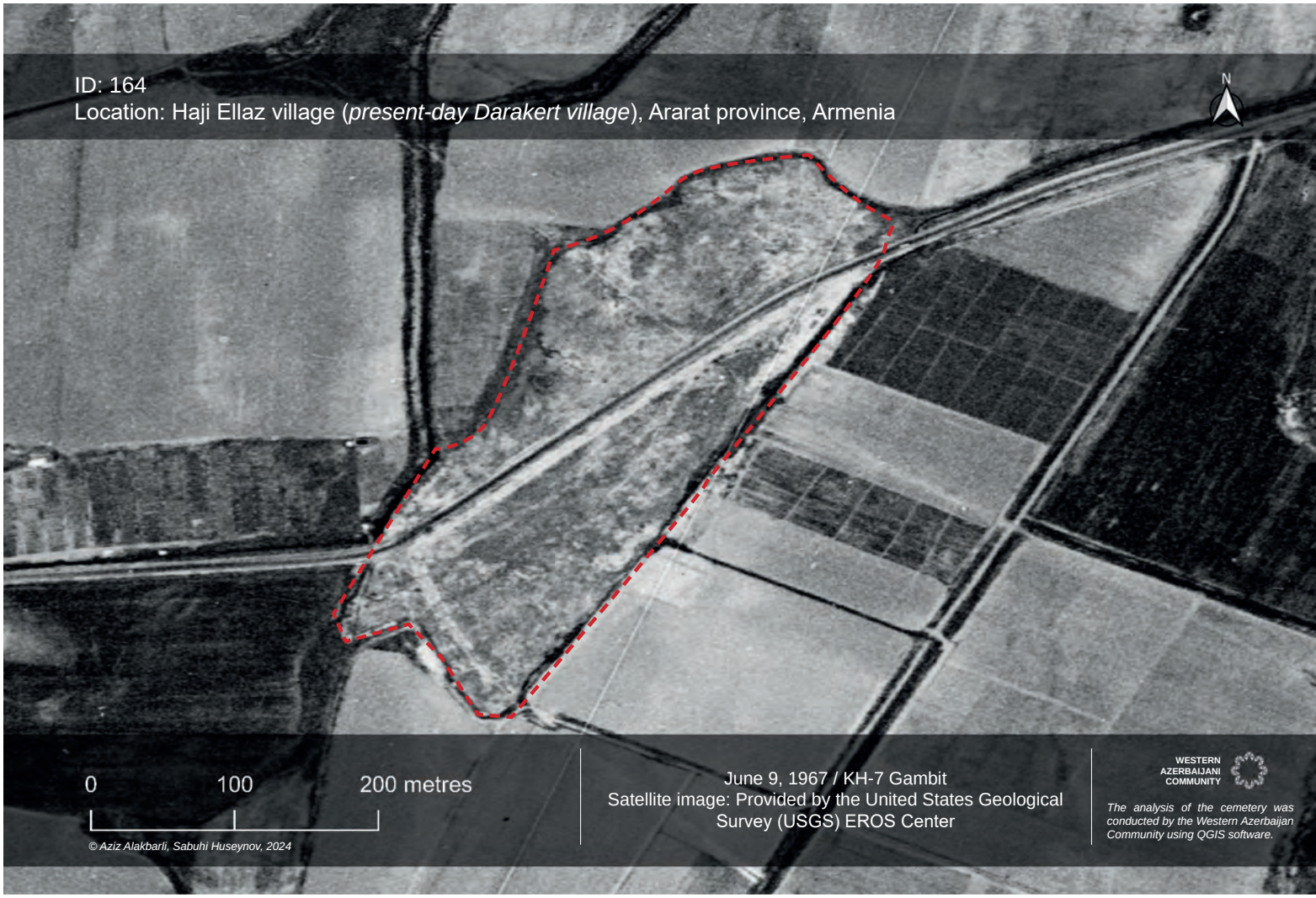
11. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi Sovetskoi Sotsialisticheskoi Respubliki,* no. 2 (669) (Erevan: Verkhovny Sovet Armianskoy SSR, 1978), 10.
12. *KH-7 Gambit, DZB00403800089H019001*, June 09, 1967, USGS EROS Data Center.
13. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138F002*, July 03, 1980. Source:USGS EROS.
14. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-200372F004*, June 16, 1982. Source:USGS EROS.
15. *QuickBird-2*, April 21, 2004, Maxar via Google Earth.
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
17. General'nyĭ Shtab , K-38-137 (*Echmiadzin*) [map], scale 1:100,000, 1976.
18. General'nyĭ Shtab , K-38-137-G (*Echmiadzin*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
19. Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, Topograficheskiĭ plan goroda Erevan, K-38-137,138 [map], scale 1:25000, 1983.


ID: 164
Location: Haji Ellaz village (*present-day Darakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 9, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 164
Location: Haji Ellaz village (*present-day Darakert village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 9, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

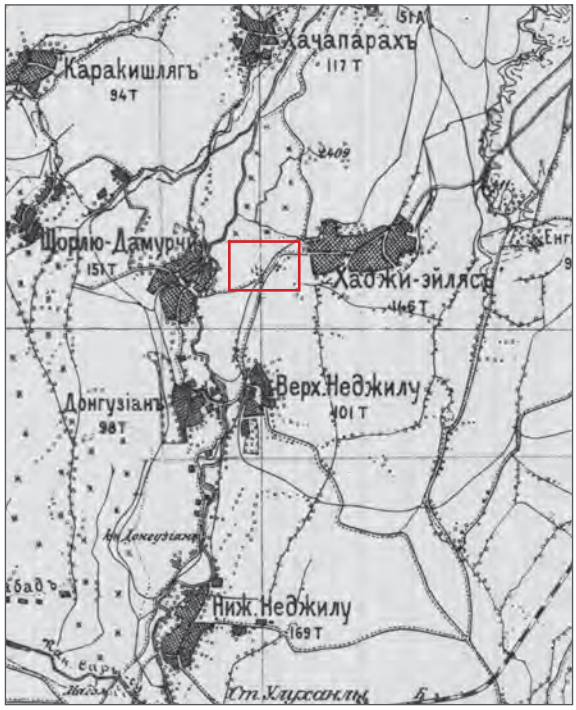
ID: 164
Location: Haji Ellaz village (present-day Darakert village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 16, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 164
Location: Haji Ellaz village (present-day Darakert village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 21, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

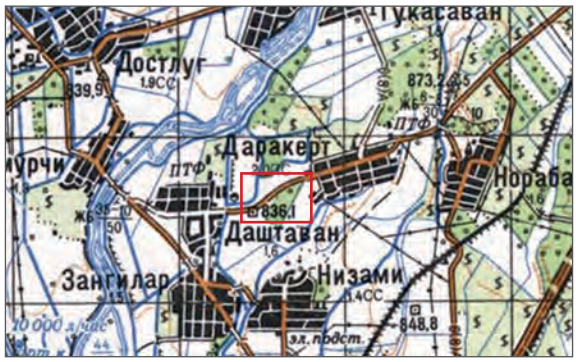
1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.



1976

Marked as a hill formation on a *1:100,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1976 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

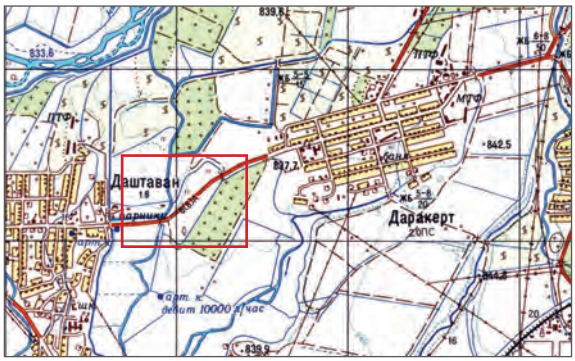


1983

Marked as a hill formation on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

1983

Marked as a hill on a *1:25,000 scale* topographic map of Iravan city published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, with its boundaries retained.



From 1989 to 1995

Status: OBLITERATED

Hachaparag Village Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Hachaparag village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Khachpar village (Armenian)
ID: 010 [MC-464], 40.1190652, 44.39995828

Hachaparag was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located on the right bank of the Zangi river, 6 km from the city of Iravan. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,135 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Hachaparag village, which had previously been part of the Shirabad village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Hachaparag village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 452 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[9] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Hachaparag village was renamed Zahmat.[10]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On June 19 and 20, 1988, over 3,000 Azerbaijani residents of Hachaparag village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[11] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia dated April 3, 1991, the village was renamed Khachpar.[12]

There used to be ancient tombstone monuments in the Hachaparag cemetery featuring sculptures of rams, horses, and oxen.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[13] and June 16, 1982[14] (at right) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.5 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and April 21, 2004[15] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings indicate that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2004. The tombstones were removed, and farmland was established in the northeastern part of the cemetery, while a new Armenian cemetery was created on the remaining area. This is confirmed by subsequent imagery.[16]

Analysis of satellite imagery showing the destruction process indicates that the Azerbaijani cemetery was likely destroyed in the first half of the 1990s. This is further supported by the dense growth of vegetation and the construction of new residential buildings in the surrounding area.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was located in the southern part of the village, along the bank of the Zangi river. This site was marked on Soviet topographic maps dated 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[17] and 1983 (1:50,000 scale[18] and 1:25,000 scales)[19]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

REFERENCES:

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 196.
3. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1917 god. Otdel Statisticheskii,* ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1916), 130.
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5. BOA, MHD, no.460, ll.1-5.
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10. Kommunist, Erivan, 5 yanvar 1935, no.5 (146), 3.
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13. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138F002*, July 03, 1980. Source:USGS EROS.
14. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1217-200372F004*, June 16, 1982. Source:USGS EROS.
15. *QuickBird-2*, April 21, 2003, Maxar via Google Earth.
16. *WorldView-3*, August 22, 2023, Maxar via Esri Map.
17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
18. General'nyï Shtab , K-38-137-G (*Echmiadzin*) [map], scale 1:50,000, 1983.
19. Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, Topograficheskiï plan goroda Erevan, K-38-137,138 [map], scale 1:25000, 1983.

ID: 010
Location: Hachaparag village (*present-day Khachpar village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 010
Location: Hachaparag village (*present-day Khachpar village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 16, 1982 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 010
Location: Hachaparag village (*present-day Khachpar village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 21, 2003 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 010
Location: Hachaparag village (*present-day Khachpar village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
August 22, 2023 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Esri, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

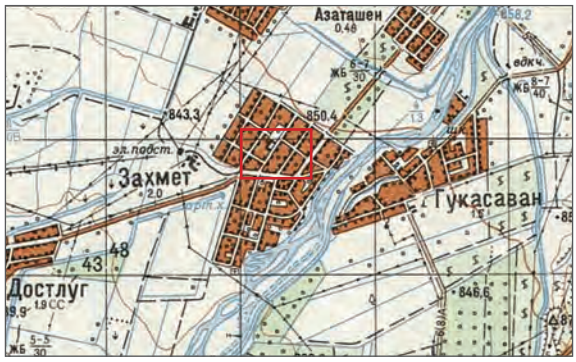
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the Military Topography Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

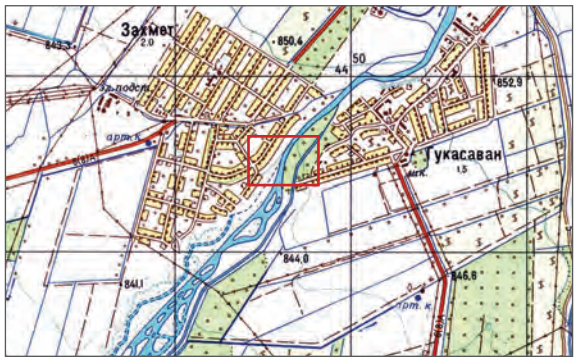
1983

Marked on a *1:25,000 scale* topographic map of Iravan city published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



1983

Marked on a *1:50,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1983 by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.



CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH
OF THE CEMETERY:

From 2010 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Ranjbar Village Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Ranjbar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Ranchpar village (Armenian)
ID: 125 [MC-569], 40.026245, 44.363377

Ranjbar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located 12 km southwest of Ulukhanli settlement, between the Araz and Boyuk Garasu rivers. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969 The village's name was first mentioned in historical sources in the first half of the 19th century as Jafar Khan Rashbari.[1] As the village was associated with a figure named Jafar Khan, its original name was Ranjbari Jafar Khan, which was later shortened in pronunciation to Ranjbar. The village was also known as Shorkend.[2] Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" and "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 431 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

In March 1918, the Azerbaijani population of Ranjbar was forced to abandon the village due to Armenian attacks. However, following the arrival of the Ottoman army in the region, and in accordance with the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Ranjbar village, which had previously been part of the Garkhun village commune[4] within the 3rd police district of the *Etchmiadzin uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[5] The Azerbaijani population who returned to the village restored it and began to resettle. Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[6] The area was then classified as a *disputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[7] On June 20, 1920, Ranjbar village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee again. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[8] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Ranjbar village within its new administrative boundaries.[9] In 1921, 133 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it once again, and resettled.[10]

Following this, the population increased again as a portion of Azerbaijanis displaced from the villages of Armudlu, Arzik, Molla Badal, Karimarkh, and Zeyva in the Sardarabad district resettled in Ranjbar. In 1949, the neighboring village of Hasanli was also dissolved and merged into Ranjbar. In 1952, 251 residents of the village were deported to the Sabirabad district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11] However, 36 families later returned to the village.[12]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On November 28, 1988, over 3,000 Azerbaijani residents of Ranjbar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian violence and crimes.[13]

A cemetery once existed in the center of the village, adjacent to the school building. Within this cemetery was the Hearth of Mir Yusif Agha, regarded by the residents of Ranjbar as a sacred site. This site had become a place of worship for the local community.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 29, 1973[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 1.35 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1973 and July 3, 1980[15] determined that the cemetery was preserved during this period and was enclosed by a fence. In both images, tombstones were identified in the southern section of the cemetery. The authors believe that the structure located in this part of the site may have been the *tomb of Mir Yusif Agha*.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and February 11, 2011[16] (WorldView-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. According to the analysis, the cemetery was severely destroyed between 1989 and 2011, with a portion of it obliterated. It was determined that the mounds of soil were the result of heavy machinery activity. The imagery shows a newly constructed or under-construction dirt road running through the center of the area. Many tombstones have been covered with soil, and some grave sites have been entirely lost. The use of heavy machinery in the area has also accelerated soil displacement and erosion processes. In the northern part of the cemetery, a large sand quarry was identified, confirming that the cemetery was in the process of obliteration.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2010 and February 21, 2019[17] (WorldView-2) identified that some tombstone fragments still remained in the eastern part of the site, near the residential area.

However, a comparison of imagery dated February 21 and October 23, 2019[18] (WorldView-3) revealed that during this interval, intensive construction or earthmoving activities had taken place. Traces of excavator blades were clearly visible in the imagery. Due to a quarry expansion, the northern sections of the cemetery were repurposed for sand storage. According to Airbus satellite imagery dated April 16, 2023[19] the final stage of destruction had been car-

ID: 125
Location: Ranjbar village (present-day Ranchpar village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 10, 1973 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ried out across the entire cemetery, with the area having been bulldozed and buried.

Thus, the comparative analysis of numerous satellite images has provided evidence that the village cemetery was completely obliterated between 1989 and 2023 and repurposed for industrial use. The destruction of the Hearth of Mir Yusif Agha has had a profound impact on the cultural and religious identity of Azerbaijanis. These monuments represented the religious devotion and cultural values of the Azerbaijani population of the village. The use of the site for industrial purposes and the destruction of these monuments signifies the severance of historical and spiritual connections for that community. Such acts of destruction are not merely physical; they also constitute the erasure of collective memory, cultural heritage, and spiritual ties. This situation underscores the urgent need to exert strong international pressure on the Republic of Armenia to ensure the protection of Azerbaijani historical heritage and the preservation of its cultural identity.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery is situated northwest of Ranjbar village, along the road leading to the village school. Among the topographic maps examined in the study, the cemetery was marked only on the 1917 map at a scale of 1:84,000[20]. Using the coordinates from the 1917 topographic map and drawing on witness testimonies, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1973 Hexagon imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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5. ARDA, f.894, op. 10, d. 80.
6. BOA, MHD, no.460, ll.1-5.
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10. Zaven Korkotyan, *Khorhrdayin Hayastani bnakch'utyuny verjin haryuramyakum (1831–1931)* (Yerevan: Melkonyan fondi hrat, 1932), 152-153.
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13. *Ibid.*
14. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100170A015*, July 29, 1973, USGS EROS Data Center.
15. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1206-100138A002*, July 3, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
16. *WorldView-2*, November 11, 2011, Maxar via Google Earth.
17. *WorldView-2*, Febrary 21, 2019, DigitalGlobe via Esri Map.
18. *WorldView-3*, October 23, 2019, Maxar via Esri Map.
19. April 16, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
20. Zweiwerstkarte von Transkaukasien/Dz-7v. *Ararat* [map], scale 1:84,000,1917.

ID: 125
Location: Ranjbar village (*present-day Ranchpar village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 11, 2011 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 125
Location: Ranjbar village (*present-day Ranchpar village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
February 21, 2019 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Digital Globe
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 125
Location: Ranjbar village (present-day Ranchpar village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
October 23, 2019 / WorldView-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 125
Location: Ranjbar village (present-day Ranchpar village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 16, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 2022 to 2023

Status: OBLITERATED

Sarvanlar Village Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Sarvanlar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Sis village (Armenian)
ID: 009 [MC-494], 40.063408, 44.377314

Sarvanlar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located west of Ulukhanli settlement, on the right bank of the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the first half of the 18th century.[1] The village was also known by other names, including Ulya Sarvanlar and Sarvanlar-Ulya. Subsequent cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,910 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Sarvanlar village, which had previously been part of the Sarvanlar Ulya village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On June 20, 1920, Sarvanlar village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was subsequently occupied by Armenians.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Sarvanlar within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 372 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled. By 1926, the number of Azerbaijanis in the village had increased to 414.[9]

471 Azerbaijanis from Sarvanlar village were deported to the Pushkin district (*present-day Bilasuvar district, A.A., S.H.*) of the Azerbaijan SSR, and 30 to the Ali Bayramli district. In 1952, 341 residents were deported to the Sabirabad district, and 206 to the Ali Bayramli district.[10] However, between 1953 and 1959, the majority of the deported Azerbaijani population returned and resettled in Sarvanlar village.[11]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November and December 1988, Azerbaijani residents of Sarvanlar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated April 3, 1991, Sarvanlar village was renamed Sis.[13]

There were five cemeteries within the village territory. Cemeteries were located at several sites: near the Arzanli Bridge; in the area known as Gara Shor; near the Damirchi canal (which was rich in ram-shaped sculptures, A.A., S.H.); next to the Ojagh shrine; and along the bank of the Garasu river.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.5 hectares, with tombstones identified on the site.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and April 21, 2004[15] (QuickBird-2) to assess the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The analysis confirmed the commencement of the cemetery's destruction. Based on 2004 satellite imagery, it was determined that earthmoving operations had been carried out across a 1,300-square-meter area as a result of the removal or destruction of tombstones. In addition, a new Armenian cemetery was established by Armenians in the western section of the site.

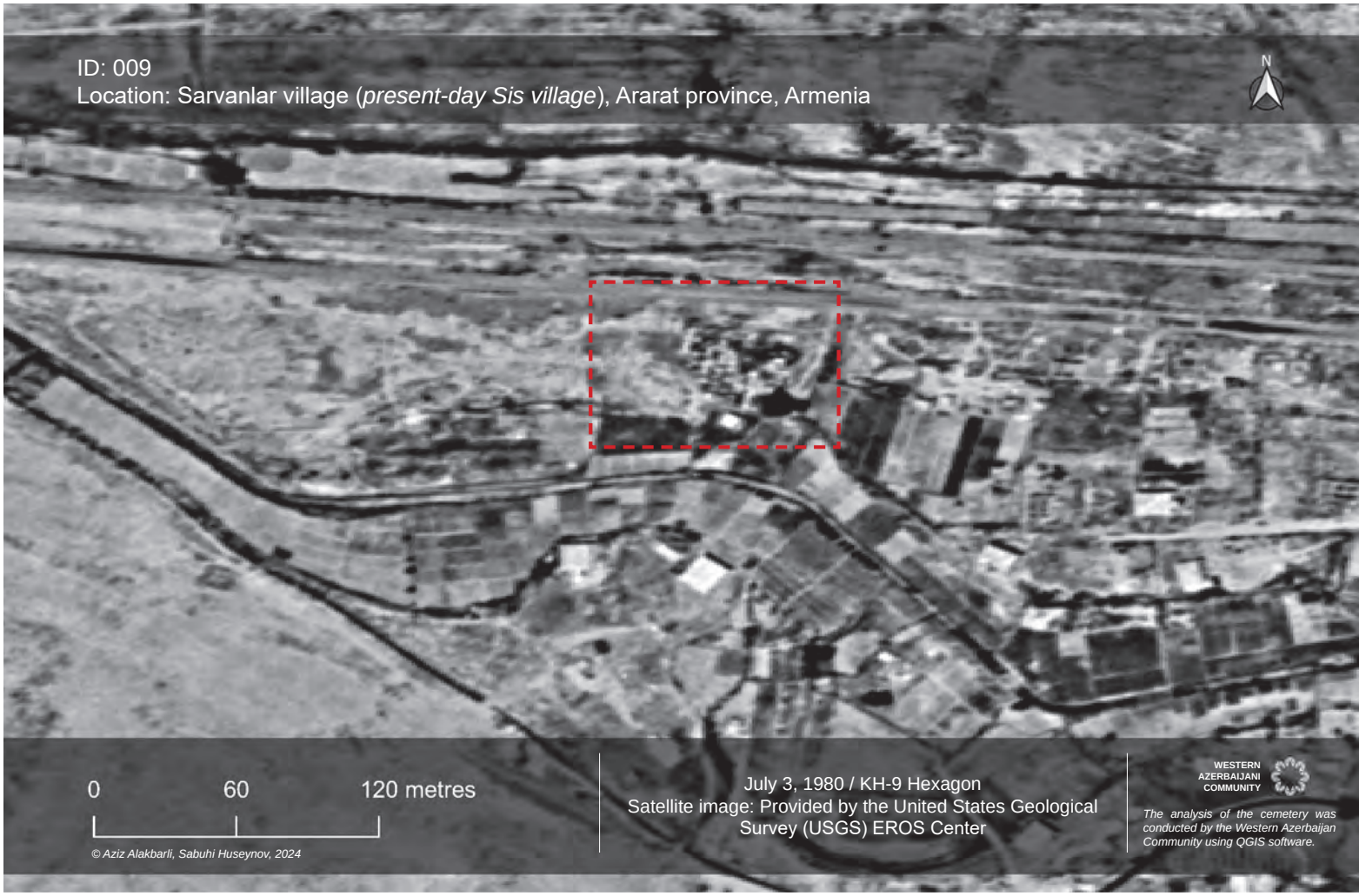
A comparison of satellite imagery dated 2004 and November 28, 2022[16] (WorldView-3) shows that while the overall situation had stabilized since 2004, the Armenian cemetery had expanded and approached the boundaries of the Azerbaijani cemetery. This expansion increased the risk of damage to the Azerbaijani tombstone monuments.

A comparative analysis of satellite imagery dated 2022 and April 16, 2023[17] (Airbus) led the authors to confirm that new, deliberate alterations had begun within the cemetery area. Within the scope of these intrusions, soil accumulation was observed in the northeastern part of the cemetery, along with the destruction and subsequent covering of Azerbaijani tombstones. The authors determined that soil had been deposited in approximately 1,020-square-meter area of the northeastern section of the cemetery and concluded that the process of destroying and burying Azerbaijani graves in that area had begun.

A comparison of satellite imagery dated 2023 and February 11, 2024[18] (Airbus) revealed the expansion of this process, showing that accumulated soil had either completely covered or destroyed tombstones across an 800-square-meter area.

The analysis conducted by the authors demonstrates that the events that took place in the cemetery following the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village in 1988 were the result of deliberate, systematic, and continuous destruction. Thanks to satellite imagery, it was possible to trace the staged nature of this destruction and to monitor how the area covered by the cemetery has changed over time.

The Sarvanlar cemetery is a sacred site for the Azerbaijanis forcibly expelled from the


ID: 009
Location: Sarvanlar village (present-day Sis village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

village in 1988, as it contains their ancestral family graves. For them, this site is not merely a burial ground, but also a means of preserving their historical and cultural identity. The destruction of the cemetery signifies a severing of the community's ties to its past and ancestral roots. The cemetery symbolizes a village inhabited by Azerbaijanis since the first half of the 18th century. Its destruction is not only a physical act of demolition but also an erasure of the history of an entire ethnic group and the obliteration of its historical memory. This constitutes a profound blow to the historical and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani community as a whole. The earthmoving activities carried out on the cemetery, the destruction of tombstones, and the expansion of the Armenian cemetery represent an attempt to erase this cultural heritage.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery lies northeast of the village, on the right side of the Ulukhanli (Masis) road. This site was marked as a Muslim cemetery on a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[19]. The cemetery was likely not marked on later Soviet maps due to its small size. However, by the late 1980s, the number of graves in the cemetery had increased. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery with a margin of several tens of meters and determined its precise coordinates.

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ID: 009
Location: Sarvanlar village (*present-day Sis village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 21, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 009
Location: Sarvanlar village (*present-day Sis village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 28, 2022 / WorldView-3
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 009
Location: Sarvanlar village (present-day Sis village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 16, 2023
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 009
Location: Sarvanlar village (present-day Sis village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
60
120 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
November 2, 2024
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

Prior to 1967

Status: OBLITERATED

Shollu Mehmandar Village First Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Shollu Mehmandar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Hovtashen village (Armenian)
ID: 106 [MC-479], 40.099885, 44.341137

Shollu Mehmandar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located northwest of Ulukhanli settlement, on the right bank of the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the late 16th century.[1] The village was also known by other names, including Mehmandar Shollu, and Mehmandarli. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 1,632 Azerbaijani residents *(referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.)*.[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Shollu-Mehmandar village, which had previously been part of the Donguzyan village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack. Although the population attempted to defend themselves, the imbalance of forces compelled them to retreat toward the Aralikh district on June 20. The village was occupied by Armenians.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Shollu-Mehmandar village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, 788 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[9]

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Shollu-Mehmandar village was renamed Mehmandar.[10] In 1948, 865 residents of the village were deported to the Aghjabadi district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11] Although 100 families returned and sought to resettle in the village, they were unable to do so, as their homes had been occupied by Armenians relocated from the Aghin and Artik districts. The returning population was instead forced to settle in Rahimabad village.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Shollu-Mehmandar village was renamed Hovtashen.[13]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shollu Mehmandar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated July 8, 1967[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. According to the results of the analysis, the cemetery had already been completely obliterated by 1967, and satellite imagery was used to trace the consequences of this process. Following the mass deportation of Azerbaijanis from the village and the large-scale resettlement of Armenians, the area was redistributed as land plots for private residential use, and its original function was altered.

The KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 9, 1980[15] shows that the destruction of this area had already been completed long before. This imagery suggests that the cemetery site had long been repurposed for private residential or other uses, and that all historical traces of its original presence had been completely erased.

GEOLOCATION:

The first cemetery of Shollu Mehmandar village is located adjacent to the road leading from the village center to Chobankara, on its left side. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[16]. The authors were unable to identify the cemetery in the 1967 KH-7 Gambit imagery using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, and its location was established solely based on the map.

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13. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi Sovetskoi Sotsialisticheskoi Respubliki,* no. 2 (669) (Erevan: Verkhovny Sovet Armianskoy SSR, 1978), 11.
14. *KH-7 Gambit, DZB00403800073H015001, 1967*, USGS EROS Data Center.
15. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 09, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
16. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.

ID: 106
Location: Shollu Mehmandar village (*present-day Hovtashen village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 8, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 106
Location: Shollu Mehmandar village (*present-day Hovtashen village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 9, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1980 to 2008

Status: OBLITERATED

Shollu Mehmandar Village Second Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Shollu Mehmandar village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Hovtashen village (Armenian)
ID: 150 [MC-489], 40.094436, 44.348804

Shollu Mehmandar was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located northwest of Ulukhanli settlement, on the right bank of the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as early as the late 16th century.[1] The village was also known by other names, including *Mehmandar Shollu*, and *Mehmandarli*. Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys, and statistical records indicated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had *1,632 Azerbaijani* residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[2]

According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Shollu-Mehmandar village, which had previously been part of the *Donguzyan* village commune[3] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[4] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[5] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[6] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack. Although the population attempted to defend themselves, the imbalance of forces compelled them to retreat toward the Aralikh district on June 20, and the village was occupied by Armenians.[7] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Shollu-Mehmandar village within its new administrative boundaries.[8] In 1921, *788 Azerbaijanis* returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[9]

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Armenian SSR dated January 3, 1935, Shollu-Mehmandar village was renamed *Mehmandar*.[10] In 1948, 865 residents of the village were deported to the Aghjabadi district of the Azerbaijan SSR.[11] Although *100 families* returned and sought to resettle in the village, they were unable to do so, as their homes had been occupied by Armenians relocated from the *Aghin* and *Artik* districts. The returning population was instead forced to settle in Rahimabad village.[12] By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated January 25, 1978, Shollu-Mehmandar village was renamed *Hovtashen*.[13]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Shollu Mehmandar village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

In the KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 9, 1980[14] a large cemetery area is visible to the southeast of Shollu Mehmandar village. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of **1.14 hectares**.

High-resolution satellite imagery dated April 6, 2008[15] (Maxar) indicates that *0.59 hectares* of the cemetery area had been repurposed for agricultural use. In another *0.55-hectare* section, signs of earlier earthmoving and excavation activities were identified. Satellite imagery dated May 22, 2023[16] (Airbus) shows that the area had been completely leveled and was being used for an alternative energy facility, specifically, for the installation of solar panels.

Thus, the conducted analysis revealed that the cemetery, having been left unattended following the deportation of the village population, was gradually and systematically destroyed over time.

GEOLOCATION:

The second cemetery of Shollu Mehmandar village was located southeast of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1931 (1:42,000 scale)[17]. Using the coordinates from the 1931 Soviet topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit imagery, thereby confirming its precise coordinates.

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2. *Kavkazskii kalendar' na 1915 god. Otdel Statisticheskii*, ed. A. A. El'zenger and N. P. Stel'mashchuk (Tiflis: Tipografiia kantseliarii namestnika ego Imperatorskogo Velichestva E.I.V. na Kavkaze, 1914), 211.
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11. *Azärbayjanlilarin Ermänistan SSR-dän Deportasiyasï (1948–1953-ju illär),* introd. and ed. by Atakhan Pashayev (Baku: Zärdabi LTD, 2013), 242.
12. Aziz Alakbarli, *Qärbi Azärbayjan II cild, Zängibasar, Gärnibasar vä Qïrxbulaq mahallarï (Zängibasar, Qämärli vä Ellär rayonlari)* (Baku:Aghrïdagh näshriyyatï, 2002), 250.
13. *Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta Armianskoi Sovetskoi Sotsialisticheskoi Respubliki,* no. 2 (669) (Erevan: Verkhovny Sovet Armianskoy SSR, 1978), 11.
14. *KH-9 Hexagon, D3C1216-100138A006*, July 09, 1980, USGS EROS Data Center.
15. April 06, 2008. Maxar via Google Earth.
16. May 22, 2023, Airbus via Google Earth.
17. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.

ID: 150
Location: Shollu Mehmandar village (*present-day Hovtashen village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 9, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 150
Location: Shollu Mehmandar village (*present-day Hovtashen village*), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
May 22, 2023 / Ikonos
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Airbus
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

From 1967 to 1980

Status: OBLITERATED

Ulukhanli Village Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Aghhamzali village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Marmarashen village (Armenian)
ID: 163 [MC-360], 40.066910, 44.467109

Ulukhanli was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located on the left bank of the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. Historical sources refer to the village as Ulukhanbayli winter pasture as early as the late 16th century.[1] Subsequent detailed fiscal registers, cadastral-administrative surveys and statistical records demonstrated that the village was inhabited by Muslims (*Azerbaijanis referred to as "Muslims" or "Tatars" in the official documents of the time*). In 1827, during the Russian assault on the Iravan Khanate, the population of Ulukhanli village, consisting of 600 families, came under attack and was forced to flee to the *Bayezid* Sanjak (*a territory within present-day Republic of Turkiye*).[2] After the signing of the Treaty of Turkmenchay on February 10, 1828, the residents of Ulukhanli returned to the village, restored it, and resumed their lives there. According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), the village had 3,200 Azerbaijani residents (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*).[3]

By March 1918, the population of Ulukhanli village had been subjected to Armenian aggression and was forced to abandon the village, which was subsequently destroyed.[4] According to the Treaty of Batum dated June 4, 1918, Ulukhanli village, which had previously been part of the Ulukhanli village commune[5] within the 2nd police district of the Iravan *uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[6] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[7] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[8] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack, forcing its inhabitants to flee. The village was occupied by Armenians.[9] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew the borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Ulukhanli village within its new administrative boundaries.[10] In 1921, 1,882 Azerbaijanis returned and lived in the village alongside 9 Armenians.

In the 1920s, during the Soviet rule, Ulukhanli village was renamed Narimanli. Following the establishment of Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, the village was renamed Zangibasar on January 4, 1938.[11]

In 1950, 18 residents of the village were deported to Agdash district of the Azerbaijan SSR, 3 to Khaldan, and 553 to Ali Bayramli district.[12] Armenians brought from abroad were resettled in the village. However, in 1954, some of these families returned and resettled in Ulukhanli.

By the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR dated June 11, 1955[13] the village was incorporated into the Razdan settlement; in 1971, the settlement was transformed into an urban-type settlement and renamed Masis.

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. On June 17, 1988, Armenians launched an attack on Ulukhanli, forcibly expelling more than 3,000 Azerbaijani residents from the settlement at gunpoint. The population took refuge in the nearby village of Ranjbar and, after staying there for some time, took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan in November to escape Armenian violence and atrocities.[14]

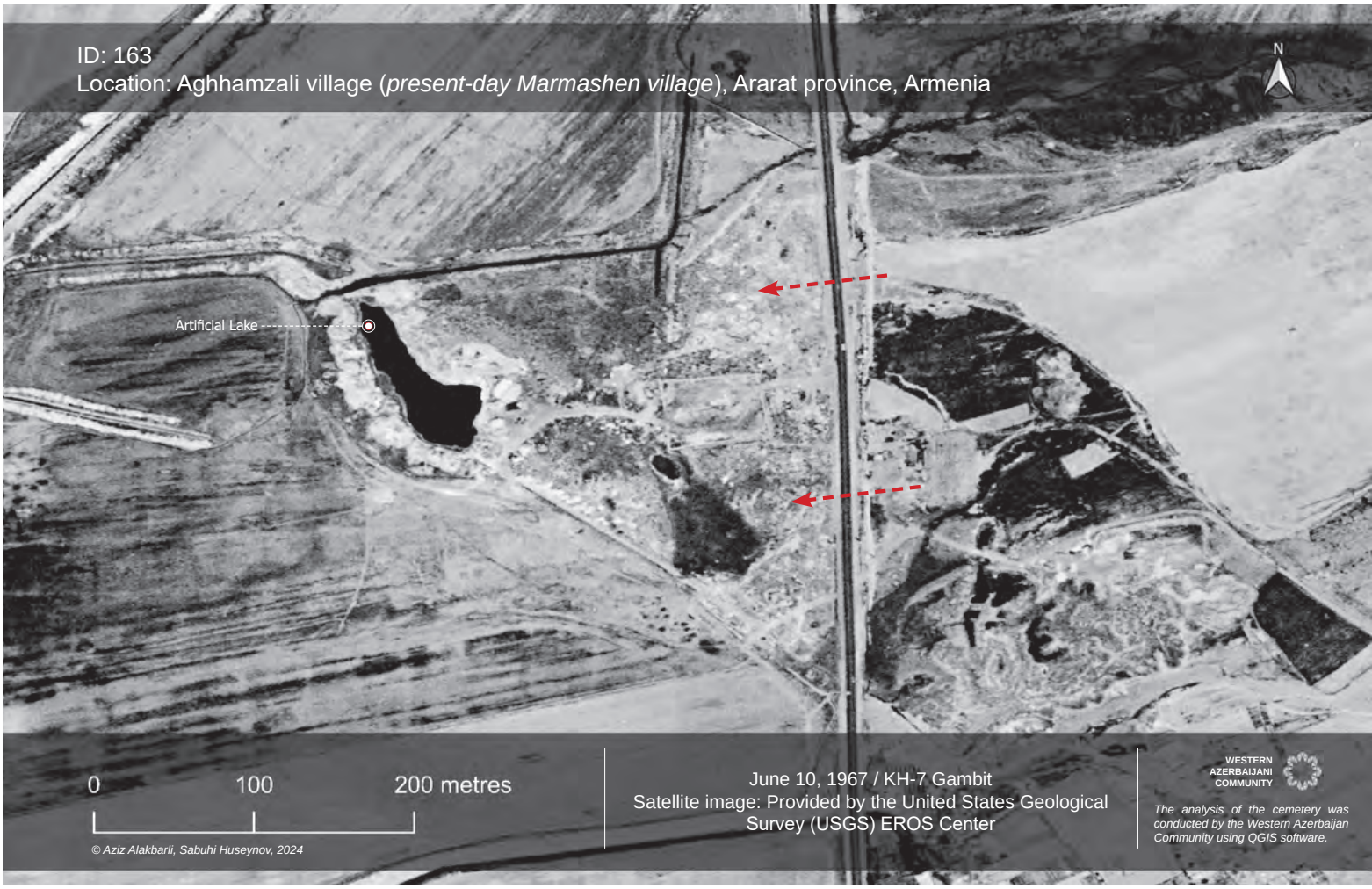
There were three Muslim cemeteries in Ulukhanli village. Among them, the oldest cemetery had been located near Aghhamzali village and was destroyed in 1938–1939 in connection with marble production activities in the area. There are records indicating that the area of this cemetery exceeded 4 hectares. Sun and horse depictions on the horse statues and numerous tombstones within the cemetery have been noted in scholarly literature. However, regrettably, detailed information and documentation regarding photographic records of the tombstones have not been found in scholarly literature.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery dated June 10, 1967[15] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicate that the cemetery spanned an area of 10.79 hectares. It has been determined that the western part of the site was used as a marble quarry. The quarry where marble blocks were once cut has since filled with water, forming a lake measuring 0.334 hectares. It is difficult to distinguish in satellite imagery whether the stones identified in the eastern part of the area are tombstones or debris resulting from marble production. Nevertheless, the imagery serves as a valuable source for identifying the layout of the Ulukhanli cemetery and has contributed to forming certain conclusions about it.

A comparative analysis of KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated 1967 and July 3, 1980[16] confirmed that construction activities had taken place in the central part of the cemetery again. It was established that between 1967 and 1980, a mill or factory was constructed in its central section, and a substation was installed. Imagery dated April 21, 2004[17] (QuickBird-2) revealed that the area had been cleared and repurposed as a construction site.

Thus, the ancient cemetery of Ulukhanli village was a unique site reflecting at least 500 years of the region's history. From a moral standpoint, the destruction of this cemetery dealt a significant blow to the historical memory and identity of the people. Moreover, the destruction of the cemetery was intended as an attack on both religious and national values. The area contained tombstone monuments in the form of horse statues, as well as artifacts that could offer significant insights into the religious beliefs, symbols, and worldview of ancient times. However, the lack of comprehensive documentation of these elements in


ID: 163
Location: Aghhamzali village (present-day Marmashen village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
Artificial Lake
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
June 10, 1967 / KH-7 Gambit
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

scholarly literature has hindered further study of this cultural heritage. Satellite imagery from 1967 confirmed that the site had been a large cemetery covering up to 11 hectares; however, construction works carried out between 1967 and 1980 led to its complete destruction, and even the structural traces of the cemetery were erased.

The monuments, tombstones, and ancient works of art that were physically lost can no longer be recovered. This loss has also profoundly affected the historical memory and national identity of the Azerbaijani population in the region. The prolonged destruction of the cemetery and its use for industrial purposes symbolizes a process aimed at causing Azerbaijan's historical heritage to be forgotten in the region. This incident was a deliberate and serious attack on the cultural and historical values of the Azerbaijani people, carried out by Armenians during the Soviet period.

GEOLOCATION:

Ulukhanli village cemetery was located 1,500 meters north of the Aghhamzali village. This site was marked on a Russian map dated 1838[18], and on Soviet topographic maps dated 1930 (scale 1:210,000)[19], 1931 (1:42,000)20, 1931 (1:210,000)[21], and 1937 (1:210,000)22. Using the coordinates from the 1931 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1967 KH-7 Gambit satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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15. *KH-7 Gambit, DZB00403800089H019001*, June 10, 1967, USGS EROS Data Center.
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19. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 9. *List E* [map], scale 1:210,000, 1930.
20. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, XXXV-33 (*Erivan'*) [map], scale 1:42,000, 1931.
21. Voenno-topograficheskoe Upravlenie, Riad 9. *List E* [map], scale 1:210,000, 1931.
22. Upravlenie voennykh topografov RKKA, Riad 9. *List E* [map], scale 1:210,000,1937.

ID: 163
Location: Aghhamzali village (present-day Marmashen village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

ID: 163
Location: Aghhamzali village (present-day Marmashen village), Ararat province, Armenia
N
0
100
200 metres
© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
April 21, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
MARKING THE CEMETERY:

1838

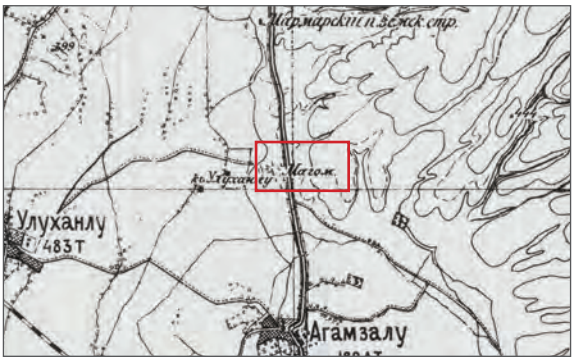
Marked on a map published in 1838 by the General Staff of the Separate Caucasian Corps of the Russian Empire.

1930

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1930 by the USSR Military Topographs Directorate.

1931

Marked on a *1:42,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the USSR Military Topographs Directorate.



1931

Marked on a 1*:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1931 by the USSR Military Topographs Directorate.

1937

Marked on a *1:210,000 scale* military-topographic map published in 1937 by the Military Topographs Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Workers' and Peasants' Red Army.

From 1989 to 2004

Status: OBLITERATED

Yukhari Nejili Village Old Cemetery

Location: Zangibasar district, Yukhari Nejili village (Azerbaijani) / Ararat province, Nizami village (Armenian)
ID: 171 [MC-495], 40.090066, 44.402145

Yukhari Nejili was an Azerbaijani-populated village in the Zangibasar *mahal*, located 1.5 km north of Ulukhanli settlement, on the left bank of the Zangi river. It was incorporated into Zangibasar district on December 31, 1937, and later into Masis district in 1969. The village was recorded in historical sources from the late 16th century under the name Hasanavar, and was also referred to by the alternative name Palasli.[1] The subsequent names of Yukhari Nejili included Balashli Nejili, Yukhari Nejili, and, eventually, Nizami. The village was inhabited by 155 Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) and 76 Armenian refugees brought from Iran after 1828.[2] By 1873, these refugees had left the village and relocated to other areas.[3] According to the 1914 edition of the *Caucasian Calendar* ('*Kavkazskii kalendar*'), 995 Azerbaijanis (*referred to as "Tatars" in the source, A.A., S.H.*) lived in the village.[4]

According to the Treaty of Batum of June 4, 1918, Yukhari Nejili village, which had previously been part of the Donguzyan village commune[5] within the 2nd police district of the *Etchmiadzin uezd* of the Iravan Governorate, was incorporated into the territories of the Ottoman Empire.[6] Following the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I and the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on October 30, 1918, the empire was compelled to withdraw from these territories.[7] The area was then classified as an *undisputed* territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.[8] On June 19, 1920, the village came under Armenian attack. Although the population attempted to defend themselves, the imbalance of forces compelled them to retreat toward the Aralikh district on June 20. The village was occupied by Armenians.[9] During the Soviet rule, the Soviet-Bolshevik regime redrew borders in favor of the Armenian SSR, leaving Yukhari Nejili village within its new administrative boundaries.[10] In 1921, 319 Azerbaijanis returned to the village, restored it, and resettled.[11]

Azerbaijanis were the sole inhabitants of the village until 1950; between 1951 and 1958, Azerbaijanis and Armenians lived alongside each other. On January 25, 1978, Yukhari Nejili village was renamed Nizami.[12]

In the late 1980s, amid Armenia's territorial claims over Azerbaijan's historical lands and the policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijani residents were forcibly deported from all Azerbaijani-inhabited settlements within the Armenian SSR. In November 1988, the Azerbaijani residents of Yukhari Nejili village took refuge in the Republic of Azerbaijan to escape Armenian crimes and violence.[13]

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Spatial analysis based on KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery dated July 3, 1980[14] (at right, top) examined the landscape features of the cemetery site. The findings indicated that the cemetery spanned an area of 0.56 hectares, with tombstones identified through their heterogeneous surface pattern. By that time, encroachments on the cemetery area had already been recorded.

A comparative analysis was conducted using satellite imagery dated 1980 and April 24, 2004[15] (QuickBird-2) (at right, bottom) to determine the condition of the cemetery following the deportation of the Azerbaijani population from the village. The findings reveal that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2004. Two private residential houses had been constructed in the western part of the site.

Additionally, in the southern section of the area, earthmoving operations were carried out on part of a hill as part of road widening efforts compared to its 1980 layout.

Thus, the analysis indicates that the cemetery was obliterated between 1989 and 2004.

GEOLOCATION:

The cemetery was situated southwest of the village. This site was marked on a Soviet topographic map published in 1983 (1:25,000 scale)[16]. Using the coordinates from the 1983 topographic map, the authors identified the cemetery on the 1980 KH-9 Hexagon satellite imagery and determined its precise coordinates.

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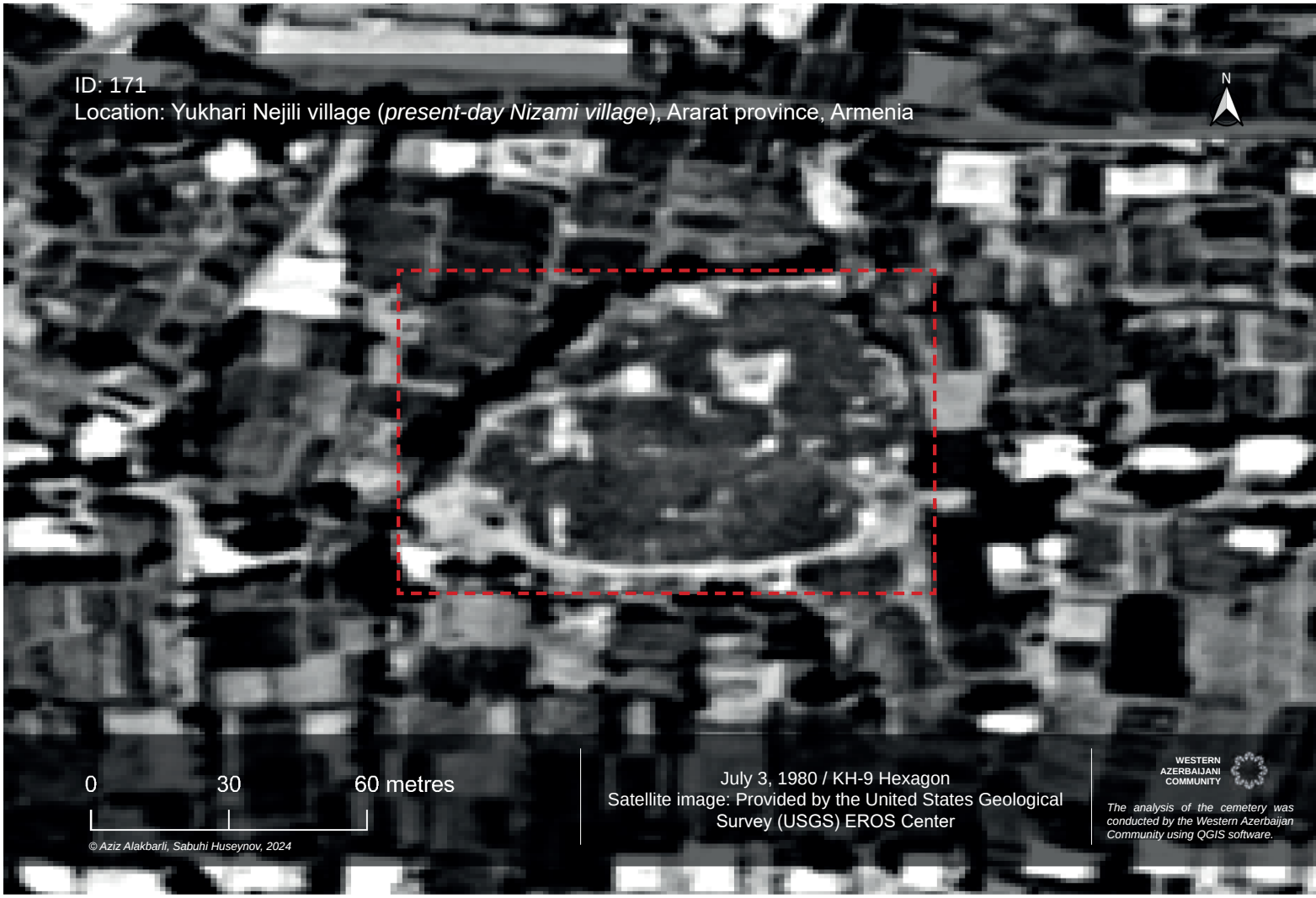
ID: 171
Location: Yukhari Nejili village (*present-day Nizami village*), Ararat province, Armenia
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© Aziz Alakbarli, Sabuhi Huseynov, 2024
July 3, 1980 / KH-9 Hexagon
Satellite image: Provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

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Location: Yukhari Nejili village (*present-day Nizami village*), Ararat province, Armenia
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April 24, 2004 / QuickBird-2
Satellite image: Google, © 2024 Maxar Technologies
WESTERN AZERBAIJANI COMMUNITY
The analysis of the cemetery was conducted by the Western Azerbaijan Community using QGIS software.

TRANSLITERATION NOTE

In this publication, Azerbaijani personal names and place names have been transliterated into English using a simplified system that closely preserves the original orthography and phonetic structure. This system has been applied consistently throughout the main text, particularly in references to villages, districts, cities, cemeteries, monuments, and individuals, in order to ensure clarity for international readers while maintaining fidelity to the linguistic identity of the source material.

The core transliteration rules are as follows: ə → a, ı → i, ğ → gh, x →kh ç → ch, ş → sh, u → u, o → o, and so on.

Examples:
- Qarakilsə → Garakilsa
- Ağbulaq → Aghbulag
- Goyçə → Goycha
- Şollu → Shollu
- Naxçıvan → Nakhchivan
- Zəngəzur → Zangazur
- Naxçıvan → Nakhchivan
- Zəngəzur → Zangazur

A full transliteration table is provided below for reference:

a → a	*g → g*	*q → g*	*s → s*
b → b	*ğ → gh*	*l → l*	*ş → sh*
c → j	*h → h*	*m → m*	*t → t*
ç → ch	*x → kh*	*n → n*	*u → u*
d → d	*ı → i*	*o → o*	*u → u*
e → e	*i → i*	*o → o*	*v → v*
ə → a	*j → zh*	*p → p*	*y → y*
f → f	*k → k*	*r → r*	*z → z*

Transliteration serves not only to aid pronunciation, but also to safeguard historical and cultural specificity. Where historically significant cities appear, the most widely recognized English forms (such as Baku, Tiflis (Tbilisi), and Yerevan) have generally been retained for consistency and reader accessibility. However, in contexts that reflect Azerbaijani usage, identity, or historical sources, the transliterated Azerbaijani forms have been used to preserve the authenticity of the original textual references.

In the Azerbaijani-language sources cited in the bibliography, the letter “ə” has been rendered as “ä” (a with diaeresis) and the letter “ı” has been rendered as “ï” (i with diaeresis) in accordance with bibliographic conventions to improve readability.

For Russian sources, transliteration into Latin script follows the ALA-LC (American Library Association – Library of Congress) romanization system, as commonly used in academic literature.

For Armenian sources, transliteration into Latin script follows the ALA-LC romanization system, which is widely recognized and applied in academic publications.

The following table presents the standardized transliteration of the Armenian alphabet according to the ALA-LC system, designed to facilitate accurate and consistent rendering of Armenian script into the Latin alphabet for English-speaking audiences.

Armenian Letter	***ALA-LC Transliteration***	***Notes***	***Armenian Letter***	***ALA-LC Transliteration***	***Notes***
ա	a	*Simple “a”*	**լ**	l	
բ	b		**խ**	kh	
գ	g		**ծ**	ts	
դ	d		**կ**	k	
ե	e		**հ**	h	
զ	z		**ձ**	dz	
է	ē	*Used at beginning of words*	**ղ**	ġ	*Pronounced [ʁ] (voiced velar fricative)*
ը	ĕ	*Between consonants*	**ճ**	č	
թ	t‘	*Aspirated “t”*	**մ**	m	
ժ	ž		**յ**	y	
ի	i		**ն**	n	
ջ	š		**շ**	o	
ռ	ch‘	*Aspirated “ch”*	**պ**	p	
ջ	ǰ		**ռ**	ṙ	
ս	s		**վ**	v	
տ	t		**ր**	r	
ց	ts‘	*Aspirated “ts”*	**ւ**	w	
փ	p‘	*Aspirated “p”*	**ք**	k‘	*Aspirated “k”*
օ	ō		**ֆ**	f	

Explanatory Notes for English Readers:

An apostrophe (‘) signifies aspirated consonants, which are pronounced with a strong burst of breath, analogous to the English “p” in “pin.”

Diacritical marks such as the macron (ē, ō) indicate vowel length or particular Armenian vowel qualities not found in standard English vowels.

The letter ղ (transliterated as ġ) represents the voiced velar fricative [ʁ], a sound absent in English but akin to the French “r” in *rouge*.

The letters č, š, and ž denote consonants similar to the English sounds in *ch* (church), *sh* (ship), and the s in *measure*, respectively.

This transliteration scheme enables scholars and readers unfamiliar with the Armenian script to approximate the phonetic and orthographic characteristics of Armenian words with precision, thereby facilitating research, cataloging, and cross-linguistic communication in academic contexts.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used through the report. They are grouped thematically for ease of reference.

Archival and Research Institutions

ARDA	Azärbayjan Respublikasï Dovlät Arxivi [State Archive of Azerbaijan Republic]
ARPIIISA	Azärbayjan Respublikasï Prezidentinin Ishlär İdaräsi Ijtimai-Siyasi Sänädlär Arxivi [Archive of Public and Political Documents, Administrative Department of the President of Azerbaijan]
BOA.HR.SYS	Bashbakanlïk Osmanlï Arshivi, Harijiye Kalemi [Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Foreign Affairs Department]
BOA.MHD	Bashbakanlïk Osmanlï Arshivi, Muahedeler [Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Agreements]
BOA.DH.KMS.	Bashbakanlïk Osmanlï Arshivi, Dahiliye Nezareti Kalem-i Mahsus Mudriyyeti [Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Ministry of the Interior, Directorate of the Office of Special Correspondence]
EAMENA	Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project
NAA	Hayastani Azgayin Arkhiv [National Armenian Archive]
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
RGASPI	Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennyi Arkhiv Sotsial'no-Politicheskoi Istorii [Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History]
SEA.STsIA	Sakartvelos Erovnuli Arkivi. Sakartvelos Tsentraluri Istoriuli Arkivi

International and Regional Organizations

UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientifics and Cultural Organization

Geospatial and Cartographic Systems

EROS	Earth Resources Observation and Science
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute (software)
GIS	Geographic Information System
QGIS	Quantum Geographic Information System (soft ware)
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WGS-84	World Geodetic System 1984

Author Initials

A.A.	Aziz Alakbarli (Äziz Äläkbärli
S.H.	Sabuhi Huseynov (Säbuhi Huseynov)

Political and Administrative Entities

SSR	Soviet Socialist Republic
USSR	United Soviet Socialist Republics
TBMM	Turkiye Buyuk Millet Meclisi [Grand National Assembly of Turkey]
RKP(B)	Rossi͡iskaia Kommunisticheskaia Partiia (bol'shevikov) [Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)]

Archival Abbreviations

f.	fond (*arkhivnyi fond* – archival collection)
op.	opis' (*arkhivnaia opis'* – archival inventory)
d.	delo (*arkhivnoe delo* – file or record unit)
l. or ll.	list (*arkhivnyi list* – leaf or page in archives)

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